THE MANOE-DENIGS

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THE MANOE-DENIGS

A FAMILY CHRONICLE

R. K. R. Denig

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"JUST AS A NATION SHOULD CULTIVATE ITS NATIONAL TRADITION AND HISTORY, THE INDIVIDUAL SHOULD UPHOLD THE HISTORY AND TRADITION OF HIS FAMILY, FOR IS NOT HISTORY BUT THE CUMULATIVE RECORD OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO A NATION'S COMPONENTS?"

Bishop Essaias Tegner, the Swedish poet.

Preface

The contents of this book are based on church registers, state and town archives, extracts from family bibles, family documents, and communications from living members of the family.

The Denigs came to America in 1733. They did their bit, whenever there was need, fighting in all the wars of their adopted country, ashore and afloat.

Originally of Scandinavian stock they intermarried with German and English blood with some admixture of the Celt. They even can claim native American blood through Edwin T. Denig, U. S. Indian Agent, in the middle of the last century, whose valuable manuscript on Indian life is highly treasured by the Smithsonian Institution, Washington. He married Hai-Kees-Kak-We-Ta, the daughter of an Abissinoin (Sioux) chief. His line, however, is extinct.

When our ancestors left their old home, the island of Manoe in the North Sea, they settled for a while on the Danish mainland; their old restless spirit, however, carried them down to Germany and thence to America, where, who knows, one of their forefathers may have been with Leif and his Norsemen, A. D. 1000.

The descendants of the old Viking skippers adapted themselves to modern life, Christian Thomsen (1636-1704) being the first one to take up a learned profession; he preached the gospel. Since then army and navy, law and medicine have claimed not a few of them. May they forge ahead. *Nunquam retrorsum!*

CHAPTER I

OUR DANISH ANCESTORS

THE earliest ancestor of the Denig family, authentically recorded, was Harald Eriksen, *smaa kongen* or chieftain of the Danish island of Manoe in the North Sea.

Our family historian, if we may call him so, Christian Thomsen, clergyman in northern Slesvig, mentions the fact that our people always claimed to be of a chieftain's family, and adds that he saw the record of the death of Christian Johnsen, skipper from Ribe, which said that Christian Johnsen was a descendant of Harald Eriksen, once "smaa kongen" of the island of Manoe. Christian Johnsen—he continued—came to his death sixty-seven years before he, his great grandson, Christian Thomsen, was born.

While on the continent the old leaders in war preserved and increased the prestige of their families by developing a heredi-

THE CHURCH ON THE ISLAND OF MANOE

tary aristocracy at the expense of the other freemen, this process took place much more slowly in Denmark, and not at all on the Northfriesian archipelago to which Manoe belongs, where the people did not tolerate any local despots, great or small. Here the chieftain[1] retained his old office to be *par inter pares* among a free people. Towards the end of the thirteenth century we find these chieftains on the Danish mainland slowly giving way to the growing centralizing influence of the kings, who gradually had developed a new aristocracy from their retainers.

Among the Northfriesians, who lost their democratic institutions and their independence much later than the Danes, we find in official records as late as 1450, members of families apparently still acting as chieftains. When eventually their offices became an empty title, the memory of their old glory still survived and in some instances has been kept alive to the present day. That the spirit of independence is still unbroken amongst the Friesians is seen by the manly answer given in the eighties of the last century to the German Emperor William the First by Folko de Vries, a descendant of an old chieftain's family. When asked whether he desired to accept the title of "Count," he declined.

"The sea and the sun," said he, "have ennobled us Friesians and no earthly ruler can confer upon us any higher degree of nobility than the one we possess by nature."

The Friesian motto, "Eala freyena Fresena," corresponds with the proud assertion of the old Franks, "Omnis Franco Nobilis."

The name Denig originally was Denek(e), then Deneg; it was taken as a family name by our forefather, Frederik Svensen at the time he left Denmark, 1709. Until then the family had followed the old Scandinavian custom,[2] which has since been stopped by the government, of the son taking his

father's first name with the affix of sen, i.e., son, as his family name.

They came to their present name in the following manner: After the death of Christian Johnsen, the last skipper of our family, his son settled on a farm, called Vollinggaard, not far from Ribe, the name still clinging to the old locality down to the present day. After the Kalmar war, 1611-1613, between Christian IV of Denmark and Charles IX of Sweden, conditions became critical in Denmark, and the Danes were hard up

THE NORTHERN POINT OF THE ISLAND OF HELIGOLAND, WHERE THORVALD CHRISTIANSEN WAS BORN (see p. 19)

for all the necessities of life, especially foodstuffs. They were forced to import grain from neighboring countries, and so it happened that Ludvig Thorvaldsen, born 1590, was sent by his father, Thorvald Christiansen, to Velen in Westphalia, a district still renowned for its agriculture, to buy corn. He went there for three consecutive years every fall, and event-

ually the Westphalians nicknamed him Deneke: Den- meaning Dane and -eke being like -ike, -ing, and -ig, a diminutive, derivative, or patronymic.

This surname was naturally not used at home, but it came in handy, when occasional trips took members of the family outside of Denmark.

The use of such a *nom-de-guerre* has always been very popular with Scandinavian and kindred races as the supply of available names did not meet the demand and the frequent similarity of names made it hard not to lose one's identity.

In this respect it is interesting to know, what J. G. Kohl in his book, *Marshes and Islands,* tells about the inhabitants of the Northfriesian archipelago who as regards names followed the same practice as the Danes:

> "The confusion among the Friesian names became greater still, as the islanders frequently travelled abroad, using then an entirely different name from the one they bore at home. A clergyman told me that even the small boys know very well that they will change their names, when they are old enough to follow the sea and go abroad. At school they very often call themselves jestingly by the name they mean to use later on."

How our name was eventually changed to Denig will be told later (see p. 24). It seems hardly worth mentioning that this book deals with the Manoe-Denigs only. Our name, as stated, is a derivative, just like Scott, French, English, Frank, or Schwab; it means "son of a Dane," and there are of course a good many Denigs, Denings, Denekes, Denikes, Deniks *et alii* who are not in the least related to us.

The island of Manoe in the North Sea belongs to the Northfriesian archipelago, a chain of numerous large and small islands, opposite the coast of Holstein, Slesvig, and Jutland.

Manoe, Koresand, Kielsand, and Fanoe are the four most northern islands and are inhabited by Danes. On the island of Sylt, Friesians and Danes are found together, the Danes living in that part of Sylt which is called List, forming the minority of the population. All the other islands are claimed by the Northfriesians.

Here, off the coast of Manoe, on her first arrival from England, Queen Tyra Danebod was wrecked about a thousand years ago. In gratitude, as a "thanksoffering" for her preservation, she gave sundry fields to the church of Manoe, fields covered with buildings, so they say, which are to this present day called Manoe Holade.

Another royal guest of the island was the beloved Queen Dagmar who on her arrival from the continent set foot on Danish ground in Manoe, 1205.

Formerly the island was much larger than it is today, the violence of the ocean having encroached on its soil in the course of the centuries. Until 1396, what is called the island of Fanoe to-day, used to be part of Manoe. In that year it was torn away from Manoe by a terrible springtide. Only lately—August 30, 1923, a violent storm swept the Northfriesian islands; here is a clipping from a newspaper:

Copenhagen, August 31, 1923.

"A hurricane, the most violent in forty years, swept the islands off the Slesvig coast yesterday. At Manoe the flood has done considerable damage. About seven o'clock last night the water rose over the seawall, put the fields under water, and washed away the corn. The people succeeded in saving all their animals. The guardhouse by the life-saving-station was overturned and the roofs of several buildings torn off. Many vessels are lost."

The length and width of Manoe to-day is about two kilometers. There are about 250 inhabitants, of whom the men mostly take to the sea. In former years the working of amber was a stable trade. Most of the houses are decorated with figure-heads, some with very antique carvings, relics of ill-fated ships wrecked off this most inhospitable coast.

LIFE-SAVING STATION ON MANOE

Marriages between Northfriesians and Danes took place not infrequently on account of the proximity of the islands; the Friesian language hovers between Anglo Saxon and old Norsk, the tribal differences between Friesians and Danes being only slight. We shall learn that some Northfriesian blood was introduced by intermarriage into our family also. On the continent things were different. Here the Northfriesians on the coast were under the political influence of the

Angles and Saxons, two much more numerous and dominating tribes, who were always antagonistic to the Danes. It seems hardly worth mentioning that when the Angles and Saxons left their old homes in Germany and went over to the British Isles, about 450 A. D., only a small percentage of the people set sail, the majority staying at home. There is a province in Holstein which bears to the present day the ancient name of Angeln-Anglia, the Saxons likewise retaining their old seats and name. They call themselves "Nether-Saxons" to-day, in contrast to the inhabitants of the former kingdom of Saxony who racially are not Saxons. Their territory, many centuries ago, became the property of a Saxon duke, and the name "Saxony" was extended to the newly acquired region. The Angles and Saxons in Germany of to-day still represent the pure nordic dolycho-cephalic type, as do the Friesians and Danes. (See William Z. Ripley, *The Races of Europe,* New York, D. Appleton & Co., 1899.)

From ancient times an epic poem has come down to us—by whom it was written no one can tell; it is known as the *Gudrun Song.* It is based on Friesian-Danish-Norse legends. In it daring Vikings are described as crossing the sea, fighting battles and winning fair maidens. Vikings were also our forefathers, although nothing more has come down to us except the name of Harald Eriksen who was chieftain of Manoe. They had their day, stood their ground, and contributed their share to the grandeur of those heroic times.

Centuries rolled by before we hear again of another of our ancestors—Red Vilmar, thus named because of his red hair. He lived on Manoe about 1460. He was a skipper, and let us hope a peaceful skipper, an exception to the general run, who did not hesitate to enrich themselves by wrecking and piracy[3] when the occasion arose.

When in the 11th century the wild Viking times had

come to an end, opportunity was given for a peaceful development of commerce on the northern ocean. But the adventurous spirit of their forefathers was too deeply inrooted in those Northerners to keep them from reverting to the practices of piracy whenever an opportunity presented itself. Of course conditions on land—nay over all Europe—were not much different in those unruly days, for might was right and the nobility openly committed murder and robbery.

In Vilmar's time the golden days of piracy on a large scale —when nearly all the then known oceans were covered by Viking fleets, and kingdoms were won and lost—were over, but many years after his death single raiders held the sea and as a rule managed to escape reprisals. Only a few decades before Vilmar was born the so-called Pirate War against the "Vitalien Brethren" had been ended by the Hanseatic League with the aid of Queen Margaret of Denmark and the Order of the Teutonic Knights.

During the siege of Stockholm filibustering had been invited in order to break the blockade and victualise the besieged city; in this way these privateers got their name "Vi(c)t(u)alien Brethren," meaning provisioning brotherhood. The war being over, the freebooters took to plain piracy under the leadership of the notorious Stoertebeker who conquered an island, Wisby, and fortified it. They terrorized the Baltic until they were driven out by the Teutonic Knights after the capture of their stronghold; thereupon they transferred the scene of their activities to the North Sea and sought and found refuge in the Northfriesian archipelago and on the coast of Friesia. For eleven years this war lasted; regular battles were fought, in the final one of which the citizens of Hamburg succeeded—1402—in defeating the pirates decisively, capturing their leader with many of his followers. But even then piracy was not entirely stamped out, and the

"Vitalien Brethren" continued to make the seas unsafe. Their temerity mixed with some degree of chivalry kept the whole seacoast from Reval down to the Bay of Biscay in a state of turmoil and decades afterwards the seafaring people of the North celebrated in song and story the wild deeds of these pirates.

Thomsen Vilmarsen was the son of Vilmar; he also was a skipper, dying on one of his trips to Holland from an acute illness. He was buried in Vaveringen, near Groningen, Holland.

Christian Johnsen was the last skipper of our family. He died a seaman's death; his body was recovered and buried in Ribe, 1569. He was the first one whose home-port was Ribe and not Manoe. We are told he owned a house in Ribe in Martin street. His wife hailed from the island of Heligoland.

In the Middle Ages the old town of Ribe was next to Roskilde, the most important place in Denmark. It was a flourishing port which in the 17th century began to decline. It boasts of a famous cathedral built in the beginning of the 12th century, where many Danish kings found their final resting place. The Ribe of to-day is only a shadow of its former self.

With the death of Christian Johnsen ended the tradition which linked our family inseparably with the sea. His descendants turned from a seafaring people into tillers of the soil.

In those times Denmark was a flourishing country. At a diet in Copenhagen, 1536, in which burghers, farmers and noblemen participated, the Catholic religion was abolished and Luther's doctrines were introduced. The confiscation of the Romish Church properties enriched the king and nobility to the disadvantage of the rent-free farmers who began to decrease in numbers.

Thorvald Christiansen was nine years old when his father

RIBE (RIPEN)

Photographed from G. Braun: Urbium praecipuarum mundi Theatrum. A. D. 1617

died. He was born on the Northfriesian island of Heligoland. Apparently his mother, when her husband was away on one of his voyages, had gone to her parents who resided on that island and given birth to the boy. He was an only son, and this evidently swayed his mother, impressed by the memory of the premature death of her husband, to keep him from following the sea.

Vollinggaard was the name of his farm; it was a so-called allodial farm i. e. the free property of its owner. According to information, obtained 1924, the name is still living in the memory of the people. The farm formed part of the village of Rangstrup, the latter being incorporated in the parish and school-district of Moltrup, between Ribe and Hadersleben. Mr. Knud Hendricksen of Copenhagen in a letter, dated June 17th, 1924, wrote:

> "I am sorry to inform you that it is impossible to procure a picture of Vollinggaard. In a letter received to-day from Mr. Linhard, county inspector in Haderslev, he tells me the house was burned down long ago, and that people there are still showing the place where the house had been, and now and then they find some remnants of walls. But even old people only remember the place as a heap of ruins. The last owner of the place was named Roos, and a relative of this man, Dr. Phil. Carl Roos, of the Royal Library, has been so kind as to help me look up the old books."

Thorvald's wife was Tatje from Sylt; her father's name was Ludvig. Tatje indicates Northfriesian origin. Thorvald died in 1634 and was also buried in Ribe.

For three generations our forefathers remained farmers. During the first half of this time Denmark enjoyed a great reputation in Europe. In 1574-84 the fortress of Kronberg was built to command the passage of the Sound. The king of

Denmark was considered the master of the northern oceans. Excellent laws were introduced, the schools improved, and the navy was kept in good condition. A standing army was formed and in various ways navigation, industry and mining were promoted. Mills were built, trading companies founded and ships dispatched on voyages of discovery. This all occurred mainly under the reign of Christian IV (1588-1648).

Thorvald's son was Ludvig Thorvaldsen. Through him we came, as stated on page 11, to our name Denek. He was born, 1590, on his father's farm and died, 1657. His burial place was the cemetery of the old cathedral in Ribe. His wife Trintje—again a Northfriesian name—came from the old home of the family, the island of Manoe.

INTERIOR OF MANOE CHURCH

During Ludvig Thorvaldsen's lifetime one war after another perturbed the Danish kingdom. The Kalmar War was hardly over when, in 1618, a new one broke out, the Thirty

Years War of Germany. King Christian IV wanted to play the rôle of a protector of the Lutheran faith, which another greater man undertook more successfully some four years later —Gustaphus Adolphus of Sweden. King Christian took the field in 1623, but was badly beaten in August, 1628, by General Tilly, the leader of the Catholic forces in Germany. The defeat was followed by an invasion and awful devastation of Jutland; finally a temporary peace was patched up in 1629.

In 1643 the Swedes attacked Denmark which had to conclude a disastrous peace in 1645. In this war the Danish king showed great courage and firmness. The following famous song refers to him:

"Kong Christian stod ved høinen mast
I Røg og Damp;
Han Svaerge hamrede saa fast,
At Gothens Hjelm og Hjerne brast,
Da sank Kvert fjendtligt Speil og Mast
I Røg og Damp;
Fly, skregte fly, hvad flygte kan.
Hvo staaer mod Danmark's Christian,
Hvo staaer mod Danmark's Christian
I kamp?"

Translation

King Christian stood beside the mast
In smoke and mist.
His glitt'ring sword was swinging fast,
Thro' hostile heads it was swiftly pass'd,
Then sank each Gothic hulk and mast
In smoke and mist.
Fly! shouted they, for no man can
The pow'r of Denmark's Christian,
The pow'r of Denmark's Christian
Resist!

(Battle at Fehmarn)

Another war with Sweden came in 1657 which, with a short interval of inaction, lasted until 1660. Especially in the latter part of this war the Danes behaved heroically, but the peace treaty of Copenhagen left Denmark a second class power.

Ludvig Thorvaldsen left two sons: Tom Ludvigsen and Dierk Thorvaldsen, and several daughters. Tom Ludvigsen was born, 1614, and the year of his death was 1689. His wife's name was Ragnhild. They had one only child, so far as we know: Christian Thomsen, born, 1636. He became a clergyman[4] and after his father's death the old farm went to his cousins.

He recorded the chronicles of our family down to his death in 1704, although in a very modest way, his "Annals" consisting merely of casual notes which he made in his Bible.*

He married a Swedish girl by the name of Anna Swanson. He left five sons and one daughter, Anna. Two of his sons, Johan and Frederik, emigrated and settled in Germany, first on the Lower Rhine, at Cologne, and later on the Middle Rhine; they were the first ones to take the name "Deneg" as a permanent family name. One of the descendants of Johan, about 1770, received a coat-of-arms from the Elector of Mainz: "per bend, or and sable, a stag rampant, proper." Johan's branch became extinct during the Napoleonic wars. This is all we find recorded about these brothers, aside from the fact that they were joined some thirty years later by their nephew, Frederik Svensen, our forefather, the son of their oldest brother, Sven Christiansen; he was born in Ribe, 1666 and died, 1741. He was like his father a clergyman; his wife, Gunhild, was a Norwegian, a Drontjem woman. Of their

* This Bible came into the possession of Philipp George, Frederik Svensen Denig's son and his descendants; it was destroyed by fire during the bombardment of Mainz, 1793.

seven children four died young and three survived: Frederik Svensen, Christian Frederiksen and Gunhild.

Frederik Svensen enlisted, 1709, at the age of seventeen, in a Danish regiment which was sent by the king of Denmark as auxiliary to the Duke of Marlborough in the Netherlands. This was during the war of the Spanish Succcession, 1701-1713.

A big British-Dutch army, to which Danish, Prussian and Hanoverian regiments belonged, operated at that time in the Netherlands against the French, while the allied Austrians under the command of the famous Prince Eugene of Savoy were engaged against the same enemy in the other theatres of war. In 1709 the plight of Louis XIV of France was very desperate indeed. He had suffered a number of defeats—Oudenarde, 1708 and Malplaquet 1709. His funds were inadequate to continue the war. He was ready to make peace proposals and declared his willingness to give up his claims to Spain, if Philip of Anjou were permitted to keep Naples. As England had seized all the spoils she wanted, she also tired of war. Gibraltar was hers; it had been taken by the Austrian Field-Marshal Prince George of Hesse-Darmstadt on August 3, 1704, and she had also a firm grasp on the American territory back of the Hudson Bay. Besides it was not the intention of England to tolerate a victorious Hapsburg. Marlborough therefore received orders to carry on the war in a desultory way and not to assist the Austrians to administer the *coup-de-grace* to the French. At last on October 8, 1711, England made a separate treaty with France behind the back of her Allies. The Dutch were now also forced to give in, while the Austrians went on with the war for another two years, but there were no spoils for them when the treaty of Utrecht was eventually concluded.

Under such circumstances there was no glory to be won by

Frederik Svensen, or Frederik Deneg, as he now began to call himself, when he appeared on the theatre of war. Decisive actions were avoided, and when at last England had settled with France, the allied contingents left the English camp for their respective homes.

Frederik Deneg was certainly a disillusioned warrior when he gave up his military career as a simple sergeant and went to his uncles in Cologne on the Rhine. There he stayed until 1720; then another attack of wanderlust carried him to Biebrich-Mosbach[5] near Mainz, Mosbach being a parish of Biebrich.

In 1722 he married Johana Weber, the only child of Philipp Weber, an owner of vineyards on the banks of the Rhine.

They had seven children:

Friedrich Karl, b. April 7, 1723.
Philipp Georg, b. June 3, 1725.
Johan Peter, b. June 1, 1726.
Maria Katarina, b. September 25, 1728.
Aloisius Paul, b. December 3, 1729.
Johana Elisabeth, b. March 12, 1732.
Christian Franz, b. July 17, 1735.

Frederik inherited the property of his father-in-law. When he himself grew to be an old man, he turned his vineyards over to Philipp, his second oldest son—his oldest, Friedrich, having died a boy—and moved to the city of Mainz, where he spent his declining years, dying in 1764.

When Frederik had settled in Biebrich our name had to undergo another change. While in Northern Germany the syllable -eg is pronounced like -ek, the Chatto-Franconian dialect along the Middle Rhine pronounces it like -esh. Auto-

matically for euphonic reasons the name changed into the softer Denig.

In former times such capricious changes of names occurred very frequently, and in perusing old chronicles we find many names sometimes written in three different ways within one century. As one instance, the Frankish King, Meroveg, was also called Merovig, and his descendants called Meroveger, Meroviger, and Merovinger, according to the dialects spoken in the different territorial regions of the former Frankish Empire. This parallels the change of Deneg to Denig.

We shall now follow up the branch of Johan Peter Denig, who was the third son of Frederik Denig. In the printed records of foreign immigration which were kept in Philadelphia between 1727 and 1775, we read p. 83:

> "List of foreigners in the ship "Two Brothers," Thomas Arnott, Master, from Rotterdam, qualified September 15, 1748—Johan Peter Denig."

He was 22 years old, when he set foot on American soil. John Peter, however, was not the first one of his family to come to America. The first one was John Henrich Denig, for we learn from the same records that in the list of foreigners, arrived in the ship "Elizabeth," Edward Lee, Master, from Rotterdam, qualified August 27, 1733, there was a Johan Henrich Denig; he was no doubt a relative of Johan Peter, probably an older cousin (see p. 22), who induced him to sail over to the Land of the Free, down the Rhine along the same route via Rotterdam. Among our forefathers Johan was a very popular name; his second name Henrich, an abbreviation for Heinrich, was in vogue along the borders of the Middle Rhine only. Ludwig, the son of Johan Peter, named one of his sons Henrich (see chapter II, p. 40). But nothing is

known about this first-comer's subsequent career. He probably died early.

The Philipp branch of the Denigs will come in for a review at the end of this book. What became of the other Denigs, we are unable to tell. They certainly must have multiplied, but every connection with them has been lost; the never ending wars in Europe were so destructive to registries and archives as to make genealogical research extremely difficult and in many cases impossible.

During the World War, Johan Denig, officer in a German regiment, fell in battle near Verdun, March 3, 1916, while storming a French position. He was in command of 7th Company, 87th Infantry, and found a soldier's grave in Montmédy, Département Meuse.

BIEBRICH ON THE RHINE ABOUT 1720

We communicated with his father, Dr. Karl Denig from Bingen on the Rhine, to learn something more about this namesake. He gave us some valuable additional information about the Denigs and stated that his family has been living for at least 170 years along the borders of the Middle Rhine, i.e. the same region where Frederik Svensen had settled upon his arrival from Denmark; he furnished, in spite of some missing links, sufficient evidence to show that Captain Johan Denig, his only son, born in Mainz, January 23, 1890, was really a chip of the old block.

Let us set him a monument here, for he died bravely for his country—the last of his immediate line and so far as we know, —the last of the Manoe-Denigs in Europe!

CHAPTER II

EAST PROSPECT OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA FROM THE NEW JERSEY SHORE

View made by George Heap in 1754 under the direction of Nicholas Scull, Surveyor-General ot the Province of Pennsylvania

Photographed from an original engraving in the New York Historical Society

The Branch of

JOHN PETER DENIG

JOHAN PETER DENIG left the Palatinate and sailed from Rotterdam on the ship "Two Brothers," Thomas Arnott, Master. He disembarked as a foreman and took the oath of allegiance to King George II, at Philadelphia on September 15, 1748.

The oath required of new settlers by the colony of Pennsylvania was an interesting document. It began, "I do solemnly and sincerely promise and declare that I will be true and faithful to King George the Second." Then came a protest against that portion of the Roman Church doctrine which declared that "Princes excommunicated by the Pope, may be deposed or murthered by their subjects," pronouncing this belief to be "impious, heretical, and wicked." The oath ended with the declaration that no foreign person whatsoever "hath or ought to have any power, jurisdiction, superiority, prominence, or authority, Ecclesiastical or Spiritual, within the Realm of Great Britain or the Dominion thereto belonging."

Certainly the Colony of Pennsylvania was wide open to all peoples of Protestant faith, even to heathen or free thinkers of all sorts. Johan Peter was a member of the German Reform Church. The family traditions show, as do the family papers,[6] that the main reason for his coming to America was the positive assurance that he would enjoy religious freedom. He was of that class of educated Palatinates of that period who, though not intolerant, were strong in their religious beliefs. They also believed in the rigid performance of religious duties and that

these duties should not only begin at home but should be a part of the enforced discipline of the home. His discipline by the way recognized the efficacy of the rod!

Among his numerous books he mentions his "hand Bible," Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, and Philotry's *Christian Allegories* as those most sacred.

Pennsylvania was the only colony in America which from its beginning allowed newcomers to enjoy the liberty of conscience without molestation. Despite Johan Peter Denig's desire to live in peace with his religious principles there is no doubt but that the lure of the rich land of Pennsylvania had its influence; it was the colony that far above all the others, possessed the "fattest soil"; beneath its soil lay, still undeveloped, greater possibilities of wealth than under all the other colonies combined. Many letters had been written back to the Palatinate testifying to all this, and few of them failed to add that living was cheap and that table luxuries—from soup and game to an assortment of native nuts—excelled in delicacy and variety the table fare of any other part of America, not excepting that of their near neighbors, the Dutch and Germans on the Hudson and in the Mohawk Valley.

If inherited tastes are admissible, the direct descendant of Johan Peter Denig can advance abundant evidence that the prospect of good living was an important factor in his selection of a place to settle.

The early settlers came across the sea to better their conditions, accumulate property, and found families in the "New World" that promised to their descendants the full enjoyment of religious and civic rights.

The voyage, even for a bachelor, in 1748, down the Rhine to Lancaster County, Pa., via Rotterdam, was at best one of great hardships. Accounts of ill treatment suffered by some of the emigrants of that period are at the present almost un-

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believable. They were generally deceived and often cheated by rascals who were employed by sea captains and ship owners. The trip down the Rhine, now a matter of hours, then lasted from four to six weeks. Underway, they had the annoyance and expense of being inspected at 36 successive customs stations. What a comprehensive system of graft there must have been between customs officers, barge owners, and the commissaries! Upon arriving at Rotterdam the passenger must wait his turn to board a ship; this frequently might mean a delay of several months. The North Sea passage to Plymouth took from eight days to four weeks.

The delay at Plymouth seems to have been especially designed to make the passengers eat up, even to the last crumb, the sea stores they had provided for the ocean voyage. The horrible experiences of the passengers that had the misfortune to sail on a ship with an inhuman or brutal master; on one that was a poor craft, or one that through foul weather consumed from 12 to 20 weeks between ports, have all been chronicled. The death rate on crowded ships ranged from 12% to 60%.

The surviving passengers were charged with the passage cost of all those who died after one quarter of the voyage was completed. It is difficult to imagine a more devilish system of corruption than that which was made possible by this regulation.

To the poor immigrant, from the time he left his home until he arrived in America, it was a fight for existence, not against the elements so much as it was against the depravity of his own species. It is safe to say that none but the strong survived.

Johan Peter probably encountered only the ordinary hardships of a sea voyage as the year 1748 is chronicled as being a good year on the Atlantic and the ship "Two Brothers" seems to have been a fast ship, being one of those reported in Saur's

paper of the year as "making the passage in 31 days, all fresh and well so far as we know." The passengers also appear to have been humanely treated on the voyage.

Johan Peter settled in Lancaster County which was then, and still claims to be, the richest agricultural land in America. Be that as it may, it was by no means a promising locality for one who practised the art of wood-carving.

Lancaster County in 1748 had not quite risen above the pioneer state, for few if any of the hardy Germans had yet crossed the Allegheny Mountains to conquer the West. They left this task to their equally hardy sons and grandsons.

Johan Peter's will, written in German, is one of the earliest recorded in Harrisburg, Dauphin Co., Pa. It is dated September 8, 1793, and was filed in the court by himself three years before his death.[7]

From the last will and testament of Johan Peter Denig we learn that he was married twice. His first wife was Philippina, his second, Elisabeth.

His oldest son was Ludwig, born September 17, 1755, in Lancaster, Pa. Then came his daughter Gertraud,[8] born 1758, another daughter Anna Maria, born August 14, 1762, another son, whose name we do not know, then Peter, born ——, and John, born July 5, 1774; the last two were children by his second wife. (The dates are partly from his son's Ludwig hand Bible, partly from the records of the First Reformed Church in Lancaster, Pa.)

If we may estimate a man from what he reads, it is of interest to learn what books were read by Johan Peter Denig.

In said testament he bequeathes to his wife Elisabeth his hand Bible, Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress,* Philotry's *Christian Allegories,* and his Herb Book, *Jacobum Trodorum Taberne Mondanum.* After her death they shall be the property of his youngest sons, Peter and John. "My oldest son Ludwig

has two books of mine; one, *Mathematical and Philosophical Recreation Hours;* the other, George Ernst's *Steel Description of Metal;* these two books he shall return again and have two others in their stead, to wit: *the Universal History of the World,* and *The Large Theatre, Pleasure and Instructive History."* To his daughter Anna Maria he bequeathed the book *The Bloody Theatre or Martyrs-Mirror* in two parts. To his daughter, Gertraud, John Arnd's *Paradise Garden,* and the *Evangelical Order of Grace.* His son Peter gets the books, Levinilemni, *Secrets of Nature,* the *Mathematical and Philosophical Recreation Hours,* and Jacob Mayer's *Planimetria;* his son John, Theodor Zwinger's, *Speedy Physician,* and Balthasar Schnur's *House of Arts and Wonder Book,* and also George Ernst's *Steel Description of Metal.* After having enumerated his books he adds the very wise remark: "They shall neither sell or lend any of them away."

Johan Peter undoubtedly was a scholar and a man of considerable artistic ability. It is to be regretted that none of his works of art has come down to any of the living members of the family. In later life he moved to Harrisburg, Pa., where he died 1796. During the American Revolution he served his country as a private soldier.

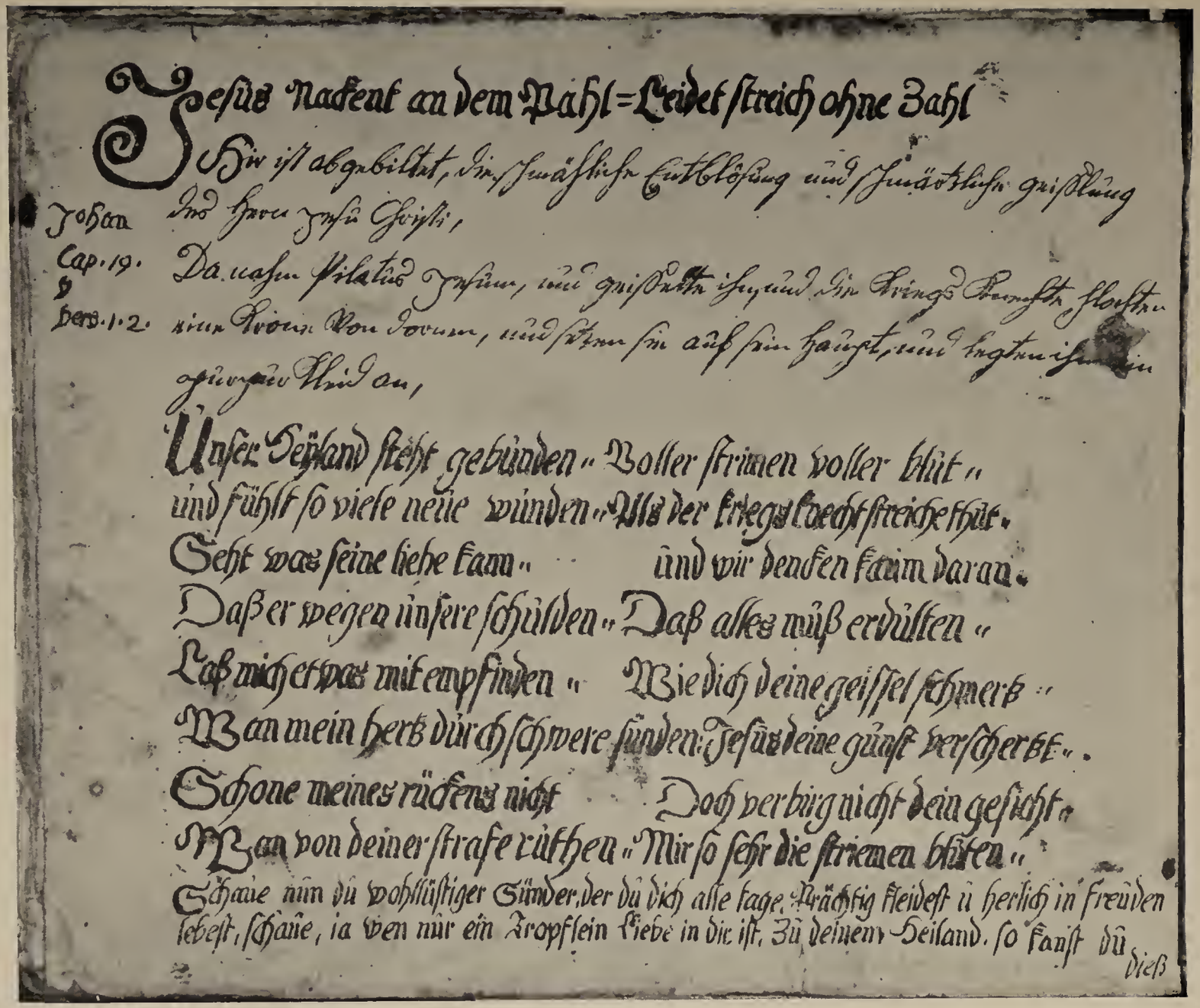
His oldest son Ludwig was born September 17, 1755, in Lancaster, Pa., and died September 17, 1830, in Chambersburg, Pa. In his hand Bible—at present in the possession of Mr. George A. Denig, the late Commodore's older brother—we find a record of his family. He gives the dates of his birth and of his wife and children:

His first wife, Barbara Gundacker, born in Lancaster, Pa., March 12, 1761, died November 22, 1801. The marriage took place October 28, 1779. Michael Gundacker, his wife's father, served in the same Company with Ludwig, 1782.

The first three children were born in Lancaster, as shown

HAND BIBLE OF LUDWIG DENIG

The Chastisement of our Saviour. One of the many pictures, drawn by Ludwig Denig, illustrating his Bible



Jesus Nackent an dem Pahl=Leidet streich ohne Zahl

Hier ist abgebildet, die schmähliche entblößung und schmärzliche geißlung

Johan Cap. 19. v vers. 1. 2. und harte Jesu Christi,

Da nahm Pilatus Jesum, und geißelte ihn, und die Kriegs Knechte flochten eine Krone von Dornen, und setzten sie auf sein Haupt, und legten ihm ein purpurn Kleid an,

Unser Heiland steht gebunden „ Voller striemen voller blut „
und fühlt so viele neue wunden „ Als der kriegs knecht streiche thut.
Seht was seine liebe kann „ und wir denken kaum daran.
Daß er wegen unsere schulden „ Daß alles muß erdulten „
Laß mich etwas mit empfinden „ Wie dich deine geissel schmerzt „
Wan mein herz durch schwere sünden Jesu deine gunst verscherzt „
Schone meines rückens nicht „ Doch verbirg nicht dein gesicht „
Wan von deiner strafe ruthen „ Mir so sehr die striemen bluten „

Schaue nun du wohllüstiger Sünder, der du dich alle tage prächtig kleidest ü herlich in freuden lebest, schaue, ia wen nur ein Tropf sein liebe in die ist, Zu deinem Heiland, so kanst du dieß

HAND BIBLE OF LUDWIG DENIG

Specimen of his poetry and penmanship

by the Lutheran Church Records of Lancaster. Ludwig must have moved to Chambersburg before 1784, as the first page of his hand Bible bears the date May 9, 1784, Chambersburg, Pa.

Their children were:

1. Ludwig, b. August 3, 1780, d. August 14, 1781.
2. Magdalene, b. December 11, 1781; her godmother was her aunt, Gertraud.
3. Georg, b. October 26, 1783, d. August 15, 1785.
4. Georg, b. November 20, 1785.
5. Johannes, b. June 21, 1788, d. September 23, 1789.
6. Margaretha, b. March 16, 1790.
7. Elisabeth, b. December 21, 1791, d. January 1, 1792.
8. Johannes, b. June 25, 1793.
9. Ludwig, b. December 14, 1795.
10. Catharina, b. November 22, 1797, d. July 25, 1815.

October 25, 1810, Ludwig took his second wife, Catharina Roger of Chambersburg, the Rev. Moller, Lutheran minister officiating. Four more children were born:

11. Henrich, b. June 25, 1813, d. November 10, 1814. (See chapter I, p. 25.)
12. Louisa, b. December 23, 1814.
13. Henrietta, b. April 27, 1817.
14. Sara Anna, b. April 14, 1819.

(Literally copied from his Bible)

The following newspaper clipping, pasted in his Bible, refers to the death of his daughter Catharina.

The *Republican*
Chambersburg, Tuesday, August 1, 1815.

OBITUARY

DIED—On Tuesday last, Miss Catharine Denig, daughter of Lewis Denig, Esq. of this borough, in her eighteenth year.

When in the course of natural events we witness the death of a friend or relative, who is snatched from amongst us by the visitations of Divine Providence, we are compelled to submit without a murmur to the unexpected call; but long and lasting will be the recollection of the virtues of this amiable young lady in the hearts of those, who were amongst her acquaintance—young and healthy, a stranger to disease and misfortune, she might have promised herself a long life and much happiness, but alas! a few days illness has torn her from the bosom of her relatives and resigned her to that "bourne from which no traveller returns," & reminds us of the melancholy reflection that youth and health affords little protection from the indiscriminating hand of death.

Ludwig was a chemist and lived in his own stately house in Chambersburg; of this John M. Cooper in his *Recollections of Chambersburg, Pa., Chiefly Between the Years 1830-1850,* (Chambersburg, Pa., 1900) writes as follows (p. 13):

"North Main St.—West Side:

Lewis Denig's dwelling came next. This was the noted old and strong stone building known in early days as Jacks tavern, in which the first court of Franklin County was held."

His military record shows that he served as a private in the Revolutionary War. It reads thus:

PENNSYLVANIA STATE LIBRARY

Harrisburg, Pa., January 31st, 1901.

To Whom It May Concern:

I hereby certify to the revolutionary services of Ludwig Denig as follows:

Ludwig Denig was a private, 3rd Company, 8th Battalion, Lancaster County Associators, Commanded by Captain Joseph Hubley 1782.

(From unpublished Muster Rolls in the possession of the State of Pennsylvania.)

(Signed) GEO. EDWARD REED,
State Librarian and Editor of Pennsylvania Archives.

Seal of Commonwealth of
Pennsylvania, Library department,
affixed here.

I hereby certify the above to be a true and correct copy of the Official Certificate issued by the State Librarian of Pennsylvania.

(Signed) ROBERT G. DENIG,
Lieut. Comdr. U. S. Navy.

Ludwig's hand Bible was written in German. Most of it is a transcript of the New Testament, which he illustrated with a good many colored pictures, adding short religious verses and poems of his own in a commentary way and some hymns. The pictures are crude, but they show, as does the penmanship, much patience and care of execution.

His son, Dr. George Denig was born November 20, 1785, in Chambersburg, Pa. Between 1810 and 1812 we find him located in Stroudsburg, Pa., where his oldest two sons were born. In the following year he moved to McConnelsburg, Pa., and in the forties to Columbus, Ohio; there he died a nonagenarian on February 18, 1875.

In 1811 he married at Chambersburg Eliza McClintock of Bedford, Pa. (b. January 30, 1788, d. April 22, 1832.) They had ten children:

1. George W., b. September 19, 1810, in Stroudsburg, Pa.

2. Edwin Thompson, b. May 10, 1812, in Stroudsburg, Pa.
3. Robert McClintock, b. November 25, 1813, in McConnelsburg, Pa.
4. Alfred, b. in McConnelsburg, Pa.; died at Elmhurst, Illinois; he had one son, Augustus, whose daughter, Dr. Blanche Denig, is specializing in diseases of children in Boston, Mass.
5. Adaline, b. December 1, 1815, in McConnelsburg, Pa. (Mrs. Moon—no children.)
6. John McClintock, b. November 17, 1817, in McConnelsburg, Pa.
7. Augustus McClintock, b. December 14, 1819, in McConnelsburg, Pa.
8. Maria, b. December 15, 1821, in McConnelsburg, Pa.
9. Charles Elliott, b. August 28, 1826, in McConnelsburg, Pa.
10. Harriet Louise, b. September 11, 1829, in McConnelsburg, Pa. (Mrs. Backus, one son.)

George Denig was a very successful physician and a staunch and consistent follower of the principles taught by Doctor Benjamin Rush. The life of a country doctor in those times was not an easy one. The doctor's son, John, the poet and writer, gives a very amusing description of it in his *My Old Note Book in Print:*

> "The general routine of the medical practice in this section is the same as formerly, dark nights, muddy roads and long rides; occasionally our whole household is roused up at midnight by the knocking, kicking and hammering all round the house to the no little discomfiture of the dogs and disturbance of the neighbors, by a messenger with an

express of double quick haste for the doctor to go away over the ridges, some twenty-eight or thirty miles into the unexplored regions of the Malotts, Sipeses and Clevingers.

'Tis then that we see those relics of former ages, the imperishable, indestructible great drab overcoats, with a standing collar two inches thick, a hook and chain at the neck, a belt round the middle, and shingled with thirteen folds of capes, three feet long, and four inches to the weather. These have descended as true heirlooms of antiquity from father to son for at least sixty generations, each succeeding link in the genealogical descent, giving them an additional coating of molasses, grease, apple-butter and dirt, until they have become impervious to rain, wind, sleet or snow, and all other kinds of weather, thundergusts, tornadoes and earthquakes not excepted. To see one of the long-sided, hollow-bellied, buckwheat-starved seven-footers of the Brush Creek nation, buttoned and belted up to the throat in one of these wearless, tearless and fearless ramparts of resistance looks as ancient as one of the patriarchical shepherds of Judea, as colossal as the statue of Jupiter Ammon in the Lydian desert, and presents a perfect consolidation of impregnability."

Larpenteur in his book, *Forty Years a Fur Trader on the Upper Missouri,* mentions a visit which he paid to Edwin Thompson's parents in McConnelsburg, 1838. On page 148 he writes:

"Mr. Denig of Fort Union, whose parents resided in McConnelsburg, had given me a letter of introduction to his father, the doctor, and also a letter of his own to his parents, both of which I delivered with pleasure, as the place was on the stage route. There was great rejoicing on my arrival at Dr. Denig's. The doctor was about fifty

and Mrs. Denig not far from it; both were good respectable people, who paid all the attention to me that could be expected. I remained three days."

DR. GEORGE DENIG

MRS. ELIZABETH McCLINTOCK DENIG

In the war of 1812 Dr. George Denig participated in his professional capacity, as a surgeon.

November 20, 1920.

Smithsonian Institution
Bureau of American Ethnology
Washington, D. C.
Dear Doctor Denig:

Your kind informing letter of August 12th has awaited reply, together with scores of others, because of sickness . . .

As regards Edwin Thompson Denig I like to say, that from references in Audubon, Kurz, Delmet, Hayden & Schoolcraft, and from his own manuscripts he was an *ex-*

ceptional man and for years a leader in the Upper Missouri Fur Trade. His was the fate that often befalls a man who chooses to live his life outside the bounds of routine civilization.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) JAMES MOONEY.

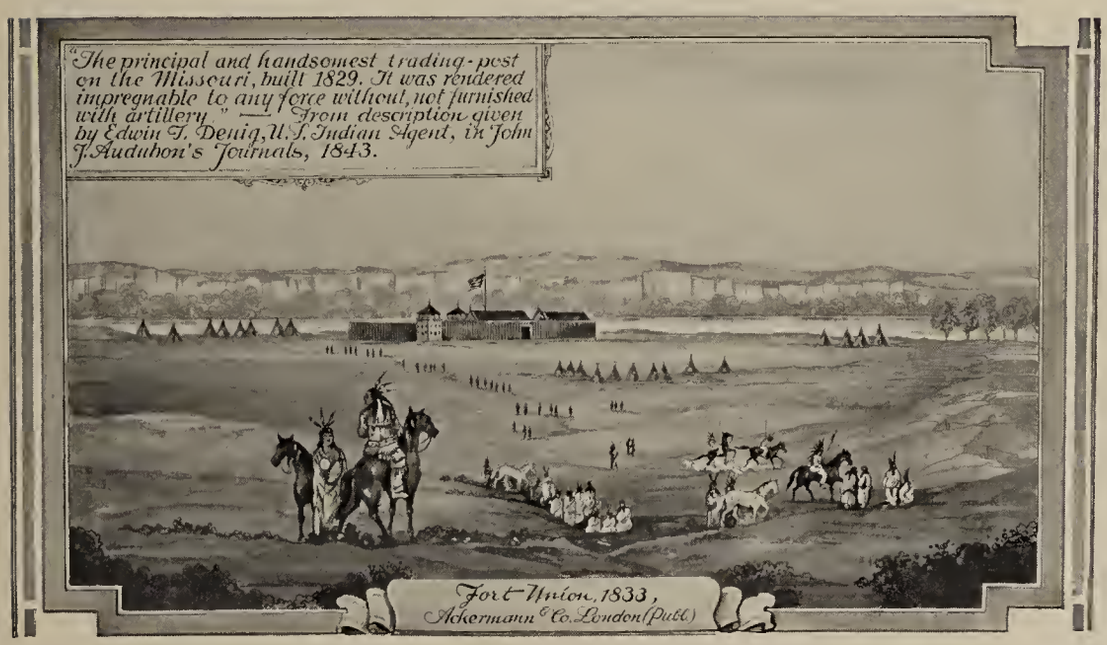
Dr. Rudolf Denig,
56 East 58th Street,
New York.

The man of whom Mr. James Mooney of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, spoke in such glowing terms, was the second son of Dr. George Denig: Edwin Thompson Denig, born in McConnelsburg May 10, 1812. He was of an adventurous spirit and entered as a young man the services of the American Fur Company in Saint Louis. We do not know where he was first stationed; in 1836 we find him at Fort Union on the Upper Missouri, where he was destined to spend the main part of his life.

The fur trade is indissolubly connected with the history of North America. For more than two centuries it was the principal business and often the only one, transacted upon the frontiers. A chain of trading posts (forts) regulated the traffic with the Indians, the Indians trading mainly Buffalo robes for articles of comfort they needed. The Commander of such a fort was called Bourgeois-Superintendent. Next in importance to the Bourgeois was the clerk, whose duties placed him first in line of promotion. He was entitled to the same social rank as the Bourgeois, and in the latter's absence succeeded to his duties. He was frequently in command of posts, and his work on the whole was the most exacting of any that pertained to the trade. In 1836 Edwin was clerk at Fort Union; he became Superintendent later on. With the decline

of the fur trade in the forties the position of "Indian Agent" was created; Edwin was made one about 1844.

Fort Union was built, 1829, in that vast and almost unknown region between the head-waters of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. In his classical description of Fort Union,[9] written for the well known naturalist, John J. Audubon, July 30, 1843, Edwin calls it "the principal and handsomest trading-post on the Missouri. It was rendered impregnable to any force without not furnished with artillery." The handful of men in such a fort, far from civilization, friends or kindred, was in constant danger of attack from hostile Indians. Around Fort Union the Assiniboins[10] had their hunting grounds. They gave their name to the Assiniboin river, the great tributary of the Red River of the North, in the English Hudson Bay Company's territory. The Assiniboin language is a dialect of the Dacotah or Sioux. They separated from


"The principal and handsomest trading-post on the Missouri, built 1829. It was rendered impregnable to any force without, not furnished with artillery." — From description given by Edwin T. Denig, U.S. Indian Agent, in John J. Audubon's Journals, 1843.
Fort Union, 1833,
Ackermann & Co. London (Publ.)

FORT UNION

this great nation after a quarrel between two women, wives of the great chiefs. A buffalo had been found by these two women; each of them persisted in having the whole heart of the animal. The two great chiefs had the folly to take part with their squaws in the quarrel, and separated in lasting discontent. From that epoch the two tribes had been at war. In John J. Audubon's Journal, p. 133, etc., we find a description of a fight with the Assiniboins, and an old Indian fighter like Colonel Culbertson made the remark: "I never saw Indians behave more bravely than the enemy this day; and had they been well supplied with powder and ball, they would have done much more execution."

From this Indian tribe—don't get shocked, dear reader—Edwin took as his wife the daughter of a chief. By doing so, he simply followed the example set by his Bourgeois, Colonel Culbertson, and of many others, who also married Indian women. If a white man wanted to marry in those wild, remote regions, he could marry none but an Indian. The females of the white race could not venture to undertake a highly perilous voyage beyond the outskirts of civilization. The arrival of the Saint Louis Company steamer, which came up the river to Fort Union twice a year, was an event, celebrated by the hoisting of Old Glory and the firing of the four pounder iron cannon. To quote Edwin:

> "This flag-staff is the glory of the fort, for on high, seen from far and wide, floats the Star Spangled Banner, an immense flag, which once belonged to the United States Navy, and gives the certainty of security from dangers, rest to the weary traveller, peace and plenty to the fatigued and hungry, whose eyes are gladdened by the sight of it on arriving from the long and perilous voyages usual in this far western wild. It is customary on the arrivals and

departures of the Bourgeois or of the boats of gentlemen of note to raise the flag and by the firing of the cannon to show them a welcome or to wish them a safe arrival at their point of destination. When interest and affection are as circumscribed as here, they must necessarily be more intense, and partings are more regretted, being accompanied by dangers to the departing friends, and meetings more cordial, those dangers having been surmounted."

Such marriages were often legalised after a return to civilization. Culbertson had his marriage legalised and so had Edwin. Through his marriage Edwin was brought even in still closer contact with Indian life, customs, habits, etc. The Assiniboin language he soon mastered so well that he was able to publish a vocabulary. That he was a keen observer and painstaking recorder is shown by the extent, the scope and the analytical arrangement of his remarkably complete vocabulary.

"A number of vocabularies of the Assiniboin language have been published from time to time, for instance by Umfreville and the Prince of Neuwied in his excellent work, *Travels in North America.* The most important vocabulary of the language of this tribe may be found in the 4th volume of Schoolcraft's great work, which consists of over 400 words, prepared by Mr. E. T. Denig, an intelligent trader, who resided for many years at the junction of the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers, as Superintendent of Fort Union, the trading-post for the Assiniboins. I know of no others that are of sufficient importance to mention here." (Hayden, *Indian Tribes of the Missouri Valley,* Philadelphia, 1862, C. Sherman & Son.)

His most important work, however, a manuscript, interpreting the customs, habits, ceremonies, and legends of the

Indians was lost, until at last it was found again. It is at present in the possession of the Bureau of Ethnology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington. The Bureau is fortunate in having discovered this notable addition to our knowledge of the rapidly disappearing American Indian life. It was written before these Northern tribes were restricted to reservations. It is firsthand information by a man who spoke their language and lived his life with them.

> "We must insist," writes Dr. Boas in his *Handbook of American Indian Languages,* "that a command of a language is an indispensable means of obtaining accurate and thorough knowledge, because much information can be gained by listening to conversations of the natives and by taking part in their daily life, which, to the observer who has no command of the language, will remain entirely inaccessible."

The Table of Contents of the Denig Manuscript (Hewitt) contains 216 items. Here are a few copied at random:

Page 5 History, Origin.
Page 10 Vestiges of early Traditions, etc.
Page 24 Local Features of the Country.
Page 27 Physical Effects of firing the Prairies.
Page 33 Animal Figures as Armorial Marks.
Page 37 Astronomy and Creation.
Page 43 Indian Paradise.
Page 60 Amputation.
Page 65 Tribal Organization
Page 98 Rank of Succession.
Page 99 The Priest's Power in Council.
Page 103 Private Right to take Life.
Page 128 Evils of Trade with Whites.
Page 189 Prayer to Ghosts.

Page 197 Legend of Ursa Major by Thunder Stomach.
Page 215 Courtship and Marriage.
Page 224 Midwifery.
Page 230 Divorce.
Page 235 Scalping.
Page 241 Greeting.
Page 248 Strength, Endurance, etc.
Page 251 Hunting the Buffalo.
Page 276 Skins, the care of.
Page 309 Face painting.
Page 332 Dance of the Warriors.
Page 378 Dresses for Women for Summer.
Page 379 Dresses for Women for Winter.
Page 420 Fables and Myths.
Page 437 Songs of the Sioux, Crow, and Assiniboin Tribes. Names, Interpretations and Occasions.
Page 451 The End.

Because of his thorough and comprehensive knowledge of the Indians of his adopted tribe, their language, customs and tribal relations he was consulted by the most noted investigators of that period, Hayden and others. Hayden in his book credits Edwin Denig with having sent material. Audubon who sojourned with him for some time, spoke of him, not only as an agreeable companion, but as a friend who gave him valuable information and enthusiastic assistance, and relates how on one of their expeditions, in the coldest of winter weather, Denig mounted from his shoulders into a tree and dislodged the coffin of an Indian chief from its resting place. After bagging the chief's head (for ethnologic purposes) "Denig promised that he would replace the coffin at some future time."

One of his frequent companions at Fort Union was the

Belgian priest, Father de Smet. He was the distinguished Jesuit missionary who holds an eminent place as an authority upon the Pioneer history of the Rocky Mountains. After Father de Smet had left Fort Union, he kept up a correspondence with Edwin and this correspondence was continued after de Smet returned to Belgium (see *Life, Letters and Travels of Father de Smet,* Chittenden & Richardson, 4 vol., N. Y., 1905).

Letters of Father de Smet to Edwin T. Denig.

May, 1852.

St. Louis University,
Edwin T. Denig, Esq., Fort Union.

Dear Sir and friend.—Your welcome letter of the 28th of January reached me in due time.—I communicated Your favor to Colonel D. D. Mitchell, who read with delight Your statement of the actual disposition of the Indians. Your remarks are certainly just and true. The Colonel is well convinced of it and he has repeatedly urged upon the Government the ratification of the treaty. What a pity that so little is known of the nature and character of the Indian—they would not be so slow in their decisions.—

Great hopes are entertained that before long a mission will be established within, or in the vicinity of Your district. Should such a task devolve on me, I shall certainly look out for a spot sufficiently convenient where we might quietly and pleasantly pass a few hours in friendly discourse on religious topics, on politics, on socialism, red republicanism and the manners and customs of the Indians. Let me here express my gratitude for the manuscript You have had the great kindness to prepare for me and which I shall be most glad to receive and peruse.

I see You are still perusing Mochler's "Symbolism" and

You look upon him as an able writer. The book is calculated to be an instrument of much good.—I send You by the steamer another book, in reading which I will venture to say that You will think some of Your leisure hours well spent; it is the most profound work upon the Philosophy of Divinity.

Sept. 30, 1852.

Mr. Denig, Fort Union.

At my return home this evening I found a card in the parlor, with the well-known name of our good friend, Mr. Culbertson, and understood at the same time, that he is to leave on tomorrow for the Upper Missouri. I cannot let him start without charging him with a few lines to You. I do not know how to express my gratitude for Your very interesting series of narratives concerning the aborigines of the Far West. A thousand thanks are due to Your precious and valuable labor given, though language fails to express the feeling, which a treasure like Your pages has awakened within my breast. Nothing could be more gratifying to me than the beautiful and graphic details which You have given me of the religion, manners, customs and transactions of an unfortunate race of human beings, toward the amelioration of whose sad condition I have in some measure contributed. The lot of the Indian, his severance from the hallowed influences of Christian civilization, his profound ignorance only exceeded by his grosser superstitions, the deep and often unmerited contempt, into which prejudice has thrown him; all call upon the humane and philanthropic to do for him what ordinary charity requires of man.

In telling this tale in unvarnished colors to the unknowing world by delineating his character and by painting the

scenes, with which he is habitually surrounded, You, dear friend, will soften into sympathy the public heart and stimulate to active exertion for bettering his future situation; and You will further awaken an interest in the circumstances and events, which surrounded the posts, plains and wigwams of the Indians. Think that Your researches can be spent most profitably to the Indian and most agreeably to us. Show me this acknowledgment, for Your beautiful manuscript tells me, that I may claim a large share in Your friendship and remembrance and for which I feel truly grateful to You. You are filling up the broken but important history of a race of men, whose career, I deem, is well nigh run on this continent, but whose character, deeds and fate will increase in interest as generations decsend the stream of him. We shall soon look in vain for the survivors of a once fierce and dreaded people, but shall find them again on the historic page which You and others shall have helped to swell with faithful accounts of their savage life, rude customs and untutored manners.—I have read the present series with absorbing attention and growing interest. My imagination has often carried me back to scenes long familiar to my experience and to others of a general and kindred nature, which Your pen has so well portrayed in Your valuable descriptions of their religious opinions, of their great buffalo hunt, their war expeditions and in the histories of old Gauché and of the family of Gros François.

May 25th, 1854.

E. T. Denig,

Mouth of the Yellowstone.

My dear friend.—I received Your kind letter of the 20th of December and I sincerely thank You for Your kind

remembrance of me. I shall anxiously be on the lookout for the return of the boat and hope I shall be favored again with one of Your interesting epistles which I consider as most agreeable treats and which I always peruse with the greatest pleasure and with great advantage to myself. Nothing, dear friend, could come nearer to my heart than to be again employed in the midst of the Indians—I should rejoice indeed, if I came within the limits of Your jurisdiction; and that for several reasons. You know the Indian nature and character so well; You truly sympathize with them in their forlorn situation and sincerely wish to promote their happiness and welfare. I for my part value Your friendship highly and would assuredly profit by Your advice, in furthering the great end, the conversion and civilization of the Indian tribes.

The razors I now send You by the present occasion, will, if anything shave cleaner (than those sent before) and assist for many years to come, as You very beautifully express it in Your letter "to shave and lather the inner man occasionally." We cannot often enough think of this and we ought to prepare for the life to come.—I beg of You as a great favor, not to forget to write to me as often as You conveniently can.

I remain with great respect, dear friend, etc.

June 13th, 1856.

St. Louis University

E. T. Denig, Esq.,

Most dear Sir and friend.—I scribbled out this letter in a great hurry to give You some token of life and of my continued esteem and attachment. Mr. Mackenzie tells me he will see You and I avail myself of the occasion to present You a few books from me. I know You will read

HAI-KEES-KAK-WE-TA

EDWIN THOMPSON DENIG

them with great pleasure in Your leisure hours.—I have added Louis Napoleon's life. I have no doubt You will read it with pleasure. The author overrates perhaps a little too much his hero. It is certainly well written, full of interest and valuable information and I think you will find it so.—As I am no politician and never meddle in such affairs, You cannot expect any news from me on the subject. For some time to come the papers will afford a great deal of interest, and then, no doubt, You will occasionally receive some news. I hope, dear friend, that You will continue to favor me with some interesting letters; they are always a treat to me and most welcome. I would also feel most grateful for an Indian legend, or something on their manners and customs.—Remember me also to Your kind family and other friends and acquaintances at Fort Union; likewise the Crazy Bear and the other chiefs I happen to have seen in the country.

Most respectfully etc.

January 13th, 1858.

St. Louis University,
Mr. E. T. Denig,
Red River of the North,
British America.

Dear friend.—An excursion and then some urgent business made me postpone this truly dear obligation and pleasure to write to You sooner. Your kind favor of the first of December ultimo reached me yesterday. I read it with the greatest pleasure and feel truly grateful for Your kind and affectionate remembrance of me which I sincerely reciprocate in Your regard. I rejoice greatly at Your success and in the wellfare of Your family.—

I will add some books for Yourself and You may soon expect a periodical. I shall look out for a good and inter-

esting one.—You received the newspapers and so You are up in all that is stirring and going on in this great republic. Charles Princeau was here for some time with his wife and children. He followed Your example and was lawfully married to his wife. About a fortnight ago I received a visit from Mr. Culbertson; he is now settled with his family near Peoria, Ill.—I think he intends to marry his wife.—

Your humble servant etc.

The letters plainly show what kind of a man Edwin T. Denig was. A splendid character, beloved and respected by all, a gifted explorer, a deep thinker, and a true lover of humanity. It is to be deplored that Edwin's letters were lost, though they may come to light yet, perhaps in Belgium where de Smet spent the remainder of his life. That de Smet sympathized with the Indians, is not to be wondered at: he was a missionary and it "belonged to his business"; but that Edwin did, shows that he believed in their good points and knew them better than many of the other whites. To them the Indian was a bloodthirsty devil and they considered the best Indians to be the dead ones. To be sure, the Indian's acts of cruelty were sometimes atrocious. We read for instance in the story of Tchatka or le Gaucher, an Assiniboin chief, furnished to de Smet by Edwin, of the following outrages:

"An Assiniboin who participated in the combat gave the recital of it to Mr. Denig, and declared that with his own hand he had killed fourteen children and three women. Mr. Denig asked him, if he had killed them all with arrows. 'Some of them,' answered he; 'but failing in arrows, I had recourse to the tomahawk and the dagger.' They had torn the babies from their mothers breasts, pierced them with their lances and thrown them into the

fire. All that a pitiless and savage heart could invent of torture, was put in practice on this occasion. The Assiniboins declared that they satiated themselves with cruelty to satisfy the *manes* of their deceased parents and kindred, and their implacable and long-wished-for vengeance against the greatest of their enemies, the Blackfeet."

In 1830 Tchatka had formed the project of seizing Fort Union with a band of 200 selected warriors. Tchatka presented himself there; he effected a singular friendship for the whites. The chief played his part so well, that the ordinary precautions of disarming guests and putting their weapons under lock and key was neglected on this occasion. The plan Tchatka had developed to his warriors was to retire to the different chambers of the fort and to massacre during their sleep, at a given signal, all those who occupied them. By a happy incident, an Assiniboin girl, married to a white, betrayed the plan, so the treacherous intentions were frustrated. (de Smet, p. 1132.)

Edwin knowing the "devilish side" of the Indian and stretching out nevertheless a helping hand to him, rose above the prejudices and hatred of his time. This stamps him a truly Christian gentleman. In all he was an exceptional man, to use the identical words of Mr. James Mooney of the Smithsonian.

He had three children by his Indian "Princess":

Sara, b. August 10, 1844.

Alexander, b. May 17, 1852; he was killed by lightning 1904.

Adelaide, (called Ida), b. August 22, 1854.

Both sisters were still alive in 1924. They were educated in a convent in Saint Louis. Sara was eight years old when

she left Fort Union for Saint Louis. She married a Canadian settler, Carrier by name, and lived in Pine Rines, Manitoba. Her sister Ida was born in Red River. She married C. Simpson, of Pilot Mound, Manitoba.

From these two ladies several letters were received. Mrs. Simpson wrote May 21, 1923:

> "As I was not born when we came to this country (Manitoba), I can only tell what has been told to me by my mother. My mother and father drove with oxcart from Missouri to Red River, or what is now Winnipeg. Except for the Hudson Bay Trading Post or "Fort Garry," it was a settlement of French and Indians. Father traded with the Indians. He died from Appendicitis. My mothers name was "Hai-Kees-Kak-We-Ta," which means "young little wife," but I am not certain of this translation."

Mrs. Carrier was also kind enough to relate some of her reminiscences :

> "I was only eight years old when I left Fort Union, and do not remember a great deal. My father's work was trading and writing. The Indians were counted too dangerous to be allowed into the fort, the trading was done through a hole in the wall. There were many tribes that traded at the fort; they brought furs and received groceries and blankets, etc. The furs were shipped to Saint Louis about twice a year by steamboat, which brought supplies back. The Primate residence in the fort (Fort Union) is shown by where the flag is. (See picture). We had a suite of rooms. Father was buried at Headingly, Red River, Manitoba." (Letter dated Ap. 21, 1924.)

The pictures of Edwin and his wife are reproductions from a painting by the Swiss artist, Kurz,[11] who, as Mr. Mooney

stated, worked in Edwin's employ. It was done in 1851; it is an excellent picture and gives the impression, as was to be expected, of a man of great strength of character.

About 1851-52 with the decline of the fur trade in the region of the Upper Missouri, Edwin moved to Red River, Canada. There he carried on his trade with the Indians, who had given him the name, "Long Knife." He died, 1862, and was buried at Headingly.

Dr. Robert McClintock Denig, the third son of Dr. George Denig was a physician. A sketch of his life, published by a Columbus (Ohio) newspaper the day after his death, reads in part as follows:

> "Dr. Robert M. Denig died at 6:15 last evening (January 17, 1897) at his late residence, 66 East Town Street, after a life well rounded in years and replete with deeds which crowned him a man among men.
>
> Dr. Denig was one of the oldest physicians in this city, both in points of years and residence. He came to Columbus in 1849, and until a comparatively recent date engaged in active practice here. During this time he was connected with the Columbus Medical and Starling Medical Colleges as a member of the faculties. The early education of Dr. Denig was received at the academy taught by Thomas C. Harris of Chambersburg, Pa., and his academic course was finished in Kenyon College in 1835. Immediately following his examination he commenced the study of medicine under his father's charge, and later entered Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia, from which he graduated in 1838. He commenced the practice of medicine in his native town of McConnelsburg and remained there until 1849, when he removed to Columbus. In 1864 he was elected to the chair of medical jurisprudence in the faculty of Starling Medical College and held the same

until 1868. In 1875 he was appointed to the chair of lecturer on the diseases of children in the faculty of the Columbus Medical College, which position he held until about five years ago when he concluded, on account of his advancing years, to spend the remaining days of his life in rest and retirement, which his unceasing labors had so well earned for him. As a citizen outside his profession, Dr. Denig was always regarded as an honor to the city. While not identified with any particular order or organization of any social or secret nature, he was the beloved friend of all men who were honored by an acquaintance with him. He was a substantial member of Trinity church.

In 1838 Dr. Denig was united in marriage to Miss Jane K. Harry of Chambersburg, Pa. She died in 1861, leaving a family of eight children, five of whom are still living. They are: George Denig, now a resident of New York City; Howard Elliott Denig of Quincy, Ill.; Lieutenant Robert Gracey Denig, U. S. Navy, stationed at Newport, R. I.; Mrs. Kilbourne Jones and Mrs. Kate D. Tower of this city. In 1871 Dr. Denig married Lauretta B. Broadrick, who died in 1891. Dr. Robert Denig was a volunteer surgeon in the Civil War."

A younger brother of Dr. Robert was John McClintock, the poet and writer. Of his various writings we mention:

Strictures on the Mourners and Anxious Bench—being an examination and refutation of the doctrines of Professor Nevin . . . as contained in his pamphlet entitled *The Anxious Bench*. Chambersburg, 1843. 12°. (Title found in the British Museum Catalogue.)

The Know Knothing Manuel, or, Book for America No. 1, in which the native American platform and principles as adopted by the Know Knothings are set forth and

defended . . . together with dissertations on Romanism. Harrisburg, Pa. Printed for the author, 1855. 64 p. 12°. (Title found in the Library of Congress Catalogue.)

Autobiography of the Rev. Samuel Huber, Elder in the Church of the United Brethren in Christ . . . Chambersburg, Pa. Printed by M. Kieffer & Co., 1858. 258p. 12°.

My Old Note Book in Print. Published by the author. Columbus, Ohio, 1861. 16°.

(Copies of the above are in the New York Historical Society.)

The old Note Book[12] contains prose and poetry. In his letters to his brothers he gives a satirical description of his native McConnelsburg.

"p. 63 . . . The next item which comes under notice is the liberal spirit of inquiry and the free circulation of rumors by which our intelligence is characterized. We have an intellectual ubiquitary sagacity of discovery, for with incredible quickness the most private transactions become matters of common and public speculation. We pry into account books, ascertain individual liabilities and note down correctly the date of marriage contracts, to avoid unpleasant mistakes in the calculation of subsequent events. Among us it is useless to borrow plates, glasses or chairs for an evening party; for we are well acquainted with their price, quality, nativity and all other circumstances connected with their possession. 'Tis folly to color old gowns into new ones; for we are as well acquainted with their patches, rents and seams, as with the wringles (*sic*) in the faces of our aged grand-mothers.

We are so acute in our observations, that a pair of striped pantaloons soon become identical with the owner,

and in vain are they brought forth for new, after three or four years retiracy in an old chest with tobacco leaves. We know them immediately; and there is not an individual amongst us from the child to the dotard, who would not recognize them as an old acquaintance; whether in the crowded streets of London, on the banks of the river Nile, or hanging wrong side up on a tree-top in Robinson Crusoe's Island."

The above was written 1844. In another letter, dated October 6, 1848, he has to say something about the fashions in McConnelsburg.

"p. 67 . . . It is a useful and interesting amusement to observe in this secluded and obscure diminutive miniature village, the changes of fashions, and in the habits of the people. The female portion of course taking the lead in the introduction of all innovations. Shoulders, which a few years back, could feel comfortable under a plain and substantial calico dress, cannot now carry anything heavier, than a spider web, invisible, intangible italien lace, needlework cape of the real Neapolitan metropolitan manufacture. The heads have most disdainfully tossed off the maiden-like, or matron-like bonnet of by-gone simplicity, and now erect themselves haughtily under a labyrinthical open work, honey-comb, plaited, twisted, intertwined, inexplicable structure, securely hidden under a varigated brush-heap of ribbons, rouches, flowers, beads and tinsel. The cloak which was formerly made of six or eight yards of neat and plain material, light enough to be carried without difficulty, has now given way to European Eugenia fine twined, double-milled, three-ply Circassian merino; must contain at least twenty-five square yards, finished with three bodies and six capes, quilted in four thicknesses and lined

with satin velvet. And for fear of an appearance of economy, the seams, collar edges, capes and skirts are frilled, frizzled and fandangled with mohair, camels' hair, badgers' hair, gilt buttons and gold etching.

Kid gloves go hand in hand with these extravagances, and silk stockings and satin shoes follow in the footsteps of their woolen and calf-skin predecessors.

Thus does the present generation dissipate, in a few months, the hard earned savings of many laborious years of the frugal and industrious parents. Many an old cherished homestead passes away under the hammer of the sheriff; but this is a small evil compared with the mortification of living out of the fashion, or within their means."

Thus spoke the "Cato" of McConnelsburg, *Anno Domini,* 1848.

"I saw him once, tall, immaculate—a gentleman." (From a letter of Mrs. Robert Gracey Denig, Sandusky, Ohio.) John M. Denig came to Columbus, Ohio, in the fall of 1849; there he spent the rest of his life; he died April 10, 1899.

Of his poems, "Dirge of the State House Bell" is one of his best.

Dirge of the State House Bell.

Columbus, farewell! no more shall You hear,
My voice so familiar so many a year—
Those musical sounds, which You recognized well,
As the clear-sounding tones of Your State House Bell.

Ere the red man had gone, I was mounted on high,
When the wide-spreading forest which greeted mine eye,
Gave forth from its thickets the panthers wild yell,
As he heard the strange sound of Your State House Bell.

Uncompanioned, unanswered, I sounded alone,
And mingled my chime with its echo's deep tone;
Till spire after spire, rising 'round me did swell
Their response, to the sound of Your State House Bell.

I called You together to make Yourselves laws,
And daily my voice was for every good cause;
When aught of importance or strange was to tell,
You were summoned full soon by Your State House Bell.

As a sentinel placed on the watch-tower's height,
Columbus, I've watched thee, by day and by night,
Though slumbering unconscious, when danger befell,
You were roused by the clang of Your State House Bell.

But while I watch o'er You, the Fire King came,
And enveloped my tower in his mantle of flame,
Yet true to my calling, my funeral knell
Was tolled on that night, by Your State House Bell.

When my cupola trembled, I strove but to sound
One peal of farewell to Your Thousands around;
But You lost, as midst timbers and cinders I fell,
That last smothered tone of Your State House Bell.

The verses were written the day following the burning of the old State House Bell, which occurred at two o'clock on Sunday morning, February first, 1852. As the flames of the belfry swayed to and fro, the clear toned bell rang out a brief parting requiem, and the structure fell with a crash upon the floor of the senate chamber. John M. makes reference to this incident in his poem. A ring made of the melted mass was presented to John M. Denig as a memento of the old State House Bell.

Augustus McClintock Denig, the fifth son of Dr. George

Denig, came to Columbus, Ohio, about 1842. He became a successful businessman and was one of the builders of the High Street business block in Columbus. He died at Beverly Hills, Los Angeles County, California, where he had lived the last 25 years of his life. His only children, a son and a daughter, both died in 1855. He was himself the last of his sisters and brothers. He reached the age of 93 and was buried at Green Lawn Cemetery, Columbus, Ohio.

Charles Elliott, the youngest of the sons of Dr. George Denig, was born August 28, 1826. A letter from his daughter, Mary M. Denig, dated Columbus, Ohio, May 6, 1923, and addressed to Commodore Robert G. Denig, contains the following information:

> "In response to Your inquiry would say, I went at once to the office of the Adjt. General and collected the following information:
>
> Charles E. Denig, Asst. Surg. 7th Regt. O. V. I.—Enrolled Sept. 9, 1861.—Resigned Sept. 1, 1862.—Enrolled Surgeon 28th O. V. I. Feby. 26, 1863.—Mustered out July 23, 1864.
>
> Now, the time elapsing between Sept. 1, '62 to Feby. 26, '63, there is no record definitely given, but I think that must have been the time spent in the office of the Provost Marshall of the U. S. A.
>
> As to other information: My father served in the Army of the Potomac, being in the fiercest battles, right at the front, escaping all danger, the nearest being the explosion of a bomb which took the top of his boot-leg."

Charles Elliott was educated in Columbus, Ohio, and graduated from the Starling Medical College in Columbus. He married June, 1852, Elisabeth Sites. His death occurred

Feb. 9, 1904. Two children: Mary M. and Elizabeth, both unmarried.

At the time of Dr. Robert McClintock's death, only five of his children were still living. Edwin Calvin, the oldest, born June 1, 1840, had passed away in Peoria, Ill., December 1, 1895.

Edwin Calvin—or "Ed" as he was familiarly known—was not to be left behind at the outbreak of the Civil War and enlisted promptly in the 31st Ohio Infantry. The late Commodore Denig had great admiration for his oldest brother because of his courage.

MILITARY RECORD OF EDWIN CALVIN DENIG

Adjutant General's Office

Columbus, Sept. 26, 1889.

To the Adjutant General, U. S. A.
Washington, D. C.

Sir: I have the honor to inform You that the records of this office show that a commission as First Lieutenant and Adjutant, 31 Reg't, O. V. Infty. was issued to E. C. Denig, Sept. 27, 1861 to rank from Aug' 10 1861, and that he was mustered thereon Sept. 27, 1861, to date from Aug' 10, 1861; Com' of Captain November 1, 1862 to rank from Oct. 5, 1862. Resigned as Captain awaiting muster, Appointed Captain & A. A. G. Dec. 23, 1862, Resigned Dec. 12, 1864.

(Seal) (Signed) W. S. WICKHAM
A. Adjutant General.

Edwin Calvin was commissioned First Lieutenant by Governor Tod and made Adjutant of the Regiment. Before the 31st took the field he was detached and assigned to the staff of General Fry in Kentucky, and following this, to the staff of

General Wm. T. Sherman as Assistant Adjutant General with the rank as Captain. Later he became a member of the staff of General George H. Thomas, in the same capacity.

While with General Sherman and General Thomas he was sent on several hazardous enterprises beyond the Union lines and rendered some valuable services thereby.

He was a member of the Loyal Legion and G. A. R. and was attended to his final resting place by members of these organizations.

Franklin Harry was born December 25, 1841. At the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, he, like his brother Edwin Calvin, promptly enlisted; Frank was however a private in the Killpatrick Cavalry for the duration of the war. This regiment was attached to the western army and saw much hard service. With others Franklin was drafted into the then new signal service corps and finished his war duty in that organization.

At the close of the war he moved to Pittsburgh, Pa., and went into business. He became the father of three children. Ill health caused retirement from business in 1876. He died in Columbus, Ohio, in 1889.

George Augustus, the third son of Dr. Robert M. Denig, was born Nov. 24, 1843; he went into business and was engaged in various enterprises. He was still alive (1924), a very amiable young "old gentleman" and full of "pep," as shown by a letter, dated Philadelphia, Sept. 25, 1924:

"My dear Dr. Denig:

. . . I came just back from my trip around the United States; first to Havana, then to Panama, via Canal to San Francisco—thence to Victoria and Vancouver, via Canadian Rockies to Montreal, then to Bar Harbor; from there back to New York, then a couple of weeks down to the Jersey

coast, Bay Head and Allenhurst . . . I am promising myself the pleasure of seeing You very soon . . ."

On October 22, 1879, George Augustus Denig married Jeanette Nichol Lynde. The great-grandfather of Miss Lynde came to America with Lord Say and Lord Brook, who founded Saybrook on the Sound; Mr. Lynde who became a prominent man, owned a large tract of land at the mouth of the Connecticut River and the point is called Lynde's Point after him. The tradition is that he gave the first land to Yale College.

Two children, twins, were born Dec. 20, 1881: Edward Hart Lynde Denig, is married and has one daughter, Carol, born Feb. 17, 1917; and Harriet Annette, who married a Mr. Edgeworth Greene and has two children, Edgeworth, age 18, and Jeanette Lynde, age 6.

Annette Jane, b. March 19, 1845, who married J. Kilbourne Jones; he was Captain in the Civil War.

Howard Elliott, b. Feb. 20, 1847. He was still alive in 1924 and is a resident of Chicago.

Rush Sydenham, b. Feb. 22, 1849, died Sep. 16, 1898. The six oldest children of Dr. Robert M. Denig were born in McConnelsburg, the others in Columbus, Ohio, namely:

Kate Kirby, b. Dec. 25, 1856. She married William H. F. Tower. Mrs. Kate Denig Tower became well known for her love for birds, trees and flowers; lectures which she gave on these subjects were very popular.

Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Tower were still alive in 1924 and lived together in Boston, Mass.

The youngest son of Dr. Robert M. Denig was the late Commodore Robert Gracey Denig, United States Navy. He was born May 22, 1851, and graduated from the Columbus High School in 1869.

MOHAWKS
ONEIDAS
TUSCARORAS
ONONDAGAS
CAYUGAS
SENECAS
WITNESSED BY Sir Wm JOHNSON AGENT FOR THE CROWN
RESURVEYED JUNE, 1885 BY LIEUT. R. G. DENIG U. S. NAVY
THE LINE OF PROPERTY BETWEEN THE AMERICAN COLONIES AND THE SIX NATIONS
FIXED BY TREATY AT FORT STANWIX NOV. 5, 1768
SIGNED
FRONT and SIDE VIEWS of "LINE OF PROPERTY MONUMENT"
ERECTED at CLINTON, N.Y. 1887
Original Line was laid out by George Washington-22½ miles long-S 20° E-from Ft. Stanwix, Rome N.Y. to Unadilla, N.Y.

"LINE OF PROPERTY MONUMENT"

Mrs. Jeanne Livingston Hubbard Denig

Commodore Robert Gracey Denig, U. S. N.

He was then prepared for the entrance examination to the U. S. Naval Academy by Professor T. C. Mendenhall and stood number two in a long list of competitors from which the class was selected. He graduated from the Naval Academy in 1873.

While advancing through the various grades of the Navy from Cadet to Commodore, he cruised about the world visiting many odd and interesting places before the tourist era began. He served on eighteen different warships under sail and under steam in the "Old Navy" and in the "New Navy." In 1877 he was one of four officers out of fifteen who survived from the wreck of the Sloop of War, "Huron," when she was cast ashore by a storm on the North Carolina coast.

In 1883 he was detailed by the Navy Department to teach naval subjects and applied mathematics at Hamilton College, N. Y. While on that duty he engaged in historical research and made a survey of a line, originally laid down by George Washington in 1765. This line (22 mi.) is the only surveyed part of a line from Lake Ontario to Mobile Bay that was intended by a treaty of Sir William Johnson with the Six Nations (1768) to forever mark the Western boundary of our thirteen Colonies.

The granite monument that now stands on the "Line of Property," to commemorate this remarkable episode was designed by the then Lieutenant; it was adopted by the class of 1887 for their Class Stone and erected by them.

Lieut. Denig received an honorary election to Phi Beta Kappa Society at Hamilton College.

In the Spanish War he was with the Atlantic Fleet, participated in the bombardment of San Juan de Puerto Rico and received a Sampson Battle Medal for the action at Nipe Bay—July 21, 1898, in which the Spanish warship "Jorge Juan" was sunk. We are possessed of a letter, written by the then

Lieutenant Denig to his uncle John M. Denig, giving an account of this battle:

"Yesterday I participated in my second battle of the Spanish war. The first was the bombardment of San Juan de Porto Rico, May 12.

We arrived off the northern coast of eastern Cuba on the 13th of July with orders to blockade the port of Nipe and to prevent the escape by water of the Spanish army of this region. We steamed up and down night and day, sometimes approaching near enough to exchange shots with the forts on shore. Nearly every night we had an alarm; a light, or some dark object would be seen. Immediately the men would jump to the guns, for they slept beside them, and they are kept loaded. All steam would be put on and the chase begin. Each day in the month has a certain signal, a combination of white and red lights, known only to our ships. When this is made, the other ship must reply with a certain combination within two minutes or else be fired upon. There have been several instances where our ships have fired upon each other, but fortunately discovered the mistake before any harm was done. One night, about midnight, we made out a light that would not answer; we made ready for battle and began firing, but made no hits, for it proved to be a setting star. A trifle ludicrous, but it cost us some loss of sleep. That is of little matter—we lie down on the decks like men and get what sleep we can. Another night a mysterious light proved to be a signal light on shore, but we disturbed that game by a few well pointed shells.

Yesterday at dawn we sighted three of our ships and they brought orders to take the port of Nipe at once. That meant business and the order when announced was greeted with a cheer. We cleared for action, spread the splinter

nets, sent every loose article below, wrapped the boats in canvas and got up piles of ammunition for the guns and buckled on our revolvers. Below the firemen got out extra coal and made the fires roar; steam was hissing and everyone from the captain down to the 14-year-old messengers was excited to kill.

The line of battle was formed—"Legion," "Wasp" "Annapolis," "Topeka," and we started for the harbor entrance. When three miles from the shore the ball opened by a brisk cannonading, the forts replying. The Spanish shot fell short of us, but we could see ours sending clouds of earth in the air; in fact, watch the shells as they flew through the air, all hands cheering at a good hit and being correspondingly disappointed at a miss. We were too much for them. They could not remain at their guns. Every time a shell exploded in the forts some remark was yelled by the crew. "Remember the Maine." "That's a daisy, Kelly," "Give the yellow bellies hell, boys," and some other remarks not so polite. As we went on into the harbor, we soon forgot about the mines, for we were firing both sides at once. We were not hit at all and soon silenced the forts and drove them, the Lord knows where. On the inside of the harbor was the Spanish man-of-war "Jorge Juan," nearly as large as the "Topeka," which was the largest United States ship in the fight. It was short work with the "Jorge Juan." In a few minutes she was riddled. The crew took to their boats and escaped to shore, using the ship as protection between them and us. It was a fine sight, the clouds of smoke, the splashing of water when a shell fell short, the flash and roll of smoke when a shell exploded.

The firemen kept heaving coal, being satisfied to hear reports that we yelled down to them. It was a hot cloudy day and the temperature in the firerooms was 160.

The Spaniards did not leave until their ship was sinking, which it did about one hour after the first gun was fired. Our ships gathered close about her and cheer after cheer went up. In the meantime we had sent boats, but no one was found alive, so the crews got what loot they could, which was not much, as she went down soon, leaving only her upper flying deck above water. I got a spoon that belonged to an officer and a small piece of one of her Spanish flags.

A few minutes after it was over, a torpedo boat arrived from Santiago de Cuba, 200 miles away, with important dispatches for Admiral Howell. The "Topeka" has a reputation for being fast, so off we went for Key West. As we left the harbor we could hear the "Legion" and the "Wasp" firing away miles up the bay, causing white flags to spring up all along the shores. This region has had enough and surrendered."

His last sea duty, with the rank as Lieutenant-Commander, was on the staff of Admiral Schley, cruising around Africa on the Flag-ship "Chicago," 1900.

He voluntarily retired in 1908 as a Commodore, U. S. Navy.

On April 6th, 1917, the day war was declared against Germany, he was recalled to active duty as a Senior Inspector of navy war material over a large territory with headquarters in Pittsburgh, and remained on duty until November, 1919.

Whoever had the privilege of coming in contact with the late Commodore could not help being captivated by his personality. He was a charming gentleman, highly cultured, well read, fond of history and literature and found himself at home on almost any subject; like his uncle John, he had a literary bent, and was an entertaining writer of short stories and maga-

On Jan 20, 1927 local unit No 83 of the Am. Legion adopted the name "Commodore Denig Post"

zine articles. In the *Cosmopolitan,* April, 1893, he published an article on "Historic Figure-Heads"; in the *Outing,* February, 1895, "Witch Kate" (A Mariner's Yarn); in the *Outing,* November, 1892, "Yumi" (The Japanese Long Bow), and in the *Home Journal,* March, 1920, the prize essay, "Wolf Scarred" (a Chinese story). He knew the ways of the Far Eastern people very intimately, as his duties repeatedly took him to China and Japan; for instance he was in China during the Chinese-Japanese war and during the Russo-Japanese war he was on board the U. S. S. "Petrel," which wintered at Newchwang, China, in a drydock, dug for the purpose in the bank and housed over with canvas and matting.

To a modern ear it sounds like ancient history, when we hear, that his first service was during the revolution in Panama and that he again faced fire during the strife over the monarchy in Honolulu. Even to romantic Persia of the eighties he once wandered as a member of an official mission of our government.

Commodore Denig was a member of Grace Episcopal Church, Sandusky, O., of the Army and Navy Clubs of New York and Washington, and of Perry Post No. 83, American Legion; it was the claim and distinction of Perry Post that in Commodore Denig it had the oldest legionnaire east of the Mississippi, if not in the entire country. The last five years of his life Commodore Denig spent in Sandusky, O., 134 East Adams Street, interrupted by occasional trips to New York, Washington, etc. On April 9th, 1924, he was stricken with apoplexy in his home shortly before 6 o'clock p. m. and died almost instantly. He was buried with full military honors in the Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D. C.

In 1878 (April 11) he was united in marriage with Jean Livingston Hubbard,[12] daughter of Lester Samuel Hubbard—a bank president and early citizen of Sandusky—and Jane

Patterson Livingston. Mrs. Robert G. Denig is a great-great-great-grandaughter of Robert Livingston of the Livingston Manor, Dutchess County, New York.

They had three children: Grazia Livingston Hubbard Denig, born in the Bagni di Lucca, Italy, June 20, 1880; married Harry Shaw, Lieutenant Commander, U. S. N. Four children born to Harry Shaw and his wife, three of them living: Dorothy, Grazia Jean, and Cordelia Livingston.

Dorothy Denig was born in Vallejo, California, June 25, 1882, and died in Clinton, N. Y., January 1, 1884.

Robert Livingston Denig was born in Clinton, N. Y., September 29, 1884.

Mrs Maud Broumel King Denig

Major Robert Livingston Denig, U. S. M. C.

Robert Livingston Denig[13] received his early education in Sandusky, and was Captain of the first foot-ball team of Sandusky High School (1901) and one of the founders of the

High School paper, the *Fram*. He served as a Private in Company B., 6th Regt., Ohio National Guard, and was with the Company when they were a part of the Guard of Honor at the funeral of President McKinley in Canton, Ohio.

President Roosevelt appointed him to the U. S. Naval Academy. He passed the entrance examination with high marks, but an illness prevented his entering with his class. Upon his recovery he entered the University of Pennsylvania. In his Sophomore year President Roosevelt offered him an appointment, either to West Point or the Marine Corps. He chose the Marines and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant on his 21st birthday, September 29, 1905. Upon graduation from the Officers' School of Application at Annapolis, he served with the Army of Pacification in command of a post in Cuba, and then went with the U. S. battleship fleet on its historic cruise around the world, as an officer of the Marine guard on board the U. S. S. "Missouri." He has been on duty at many home stations and in the Philippines. He sailed for France, August 2d, 1917, in command of the 17th Company of the 5th Marines. In the World War while serving with the Marines, he was promoted to Major. In 1918 he commanded the Third Battalion 9th Infantry, U. S. Regulars from July 30th. He was cited for being "a brave and courageous leader and inspiration to all about him." He was twice wounded and was cited for his taking Medeah Ferme, October 3rd, 1918, as follows:

> "A very courageous officer. Wounded while in command of his Battalion charged with clearing out a wood filled with machine guns, he remained at his post until his mission was accomplished."
>
> (Signed) PETAIN,
> *Marshal of France.*

Major Denig received from the United States the Distinguished Service Cross and the Navy Cross; from France, the Croix de Guerre with Star, the Croix de Guerre with Palm, the Fourregere, and was made Chevalier of the Legion of Honor. In 1923 he was with the Second Brigade U. S. Marines in Santo Domingo. Since August, 1924, he has been stationed at Quantico, Virginia.

The late Commodore's report of the battle of Nipe Bay draws a vivid picture of a romantic, picturesque old style naval battle; it was a walk-over, a *Veni, Vidi, Vici.*

Twenty years later, in the World War, Major Denig, his son, describes a modern battle on land. In a letter to his wife in Philadelphia, he tells of a grim, death-strewn battle-field. It was the 18th of July, 1918:

> ". . . At 3:30 in the morning Sitz woke me up and said we were to attack. The regiment was soon under way and we picked our way under cover of a gas-infected valley to a town where we got our final instructions and left our packs. I wished Sumner good luck and we parted. We formed up in a sunken road on two sides of a valley that was perpendicular to the enemy's front; we now began to get a few wounded; one man with ashen face came charging to the rear with shell-shock. He shook all over, foamed at the mouth, could not speak. I put him under a tree and he acted as if he had a fit.
>
> At 8:30 we jumped off with a line of tanks in the lead. For two "Kilos" the four lines of Marines were as straight as a die, and their advance over the open plain in the bright sunlight was a picture I shall never forget. The fire got hotter and hotter, men fell, bullets sung, shells whizzed-banged and the dust of battle got thick. Overton was hit by a big piece of shell and fell. Afterwards I heard he was

hit in the heart. A man near me was cut in two. Others when hit, would stand, it seemed an hour, then fall in a heap. I yelled to Wilmer that each gun in the barrage worked from right to left, then a rabbit ran ahead and I watched him wondering if he would get it. Good rabbit—it took my mind off the carnage. Looked for Hughes way over to the right; told Wilmer that I had a hundred dollars and be sure to get it. You think of all kind of things. At 10:30 we dug in—the attack just died out. I found a hole or old trench and when I was flat on my back I got some protection. We then tried to get reports. Two Companies we never could get in touch with. Lloyd came in and reported he had some trenches near a mill with six men. Cates with his trousers blown off, said he had sixteen men of various Companies; another officer on the right reported, he had and could see some forty men, all told. Of the twenty Company officers who went in, three came out, and one, Cates was slightly wounded. From then on to about 8 P. M. life was a chance and mighty uncomfortable. It was hot as a furnace, no water and they had our range to a "T." Three men lying in a shallow trench near me, were blown to bits. I went to the left of the line and found eight wounded men in a shell-hole. I went back to Cates's hole and three shells landed near them. We thought they were killed, but they were not hit. You could hear men calling for help in the wheat-fields. Their cries would get weaker and weaker and die out. The German planes were thick in the air; they were in groups of from three to twenty. They would look us over and then we would get a pounding. One of our planes got shot down; he fell about a thousand feet like an arrow and hit in the field back of us. The tank exploded and nothing was left. We had a machine-gun with us and at six a runner came up and

reported that Sumner was killed. He commanded the Machine-Company with us. Hughes's headquarters were all shot up. Turner lost a leg.

Well, we just lay all through the hot afternoon. It was great—a shell would land near by and you would bounce in your hole. As twilight came, we sent out water parties for the relief of the wounded. Then, we wondered if we would get relieved. At nine o'clock we got a message congratulating us and saying the Algerians would take over at midnight. We then began to collect our wounded. Some had been evacuated during the day, but at that, we soon had about twenty on the field near us. A man who had been blinded, wanted me to hold his hand. Another, wounded in his back, wanted his head patted and so it went; one man got up on his hands and knees. I asked him what he wanted. He said "Look at the full moon," then fell dead. All the time bullets sang and we prayed that shelling would not start while we had our wounded on top.

The Algerians came up at midnight and we pushed out. They went over at daybreak and got all shot up. We made the relief under German flares and the light from a burning town. We went out as we came, through the gully and town, the latter by now all in ruins. The place was full of gas, so we had to wear our masks. We pushed on to the forest and fell down in our tracks and slept all day."

In 1907 (Nov. 13.) Major Denig married Maud Broumel King, b. Nov. 19, 1884, in Baltimore, Md., daughter of Lieutenant Charles Alfred Ely King, U. S. Navy. Three children:

Robert Livingston Denig jr., b. November 11, 1909, in Annapolis, Md.

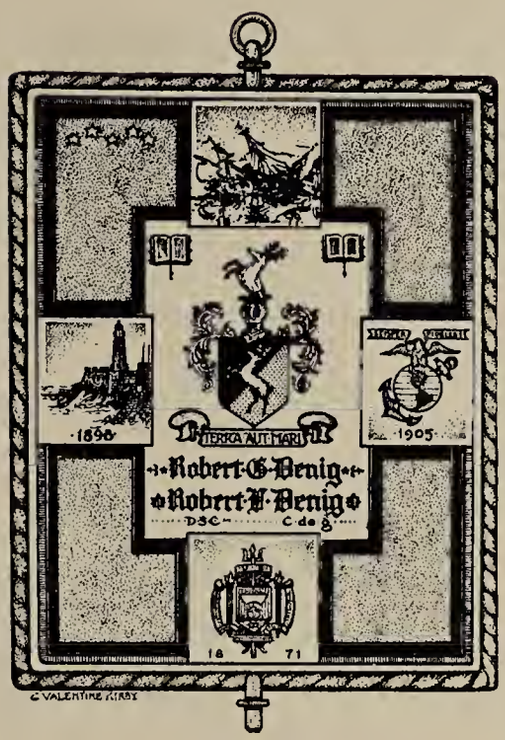
Charles Alfred Ely Denig, b. October 9, 1911, in St. Paul, Minn.

James Livingston Hubbard Denig, b. December 25, 1919, in Philadelphia, Pa.

What has been said of the impossibility of following up all the different members of the Manoe-Denigs at the end of the first chapter, applies as well to chapter II. It can and will not claim to give the records of all the descendants of Johan Peter. What the constant wars did in Europe, in the way of destroying registries and archives, the pioneer stage of early times accomplished in America; the population, originally located in the East, began to spread all over the vast territory that is now called the United States of America, and even over Canada. Many family ties were dissolved, the sons sought their fortunes in remote places and no exact records could be kept—no wonder that of many people hardly their memory is preserved and of their doings not a syllable is known. To cite one instance: When Mrs. Robert Gracey Denig was in Tokio, a certain Mr. Lewis Denig, Professor in a Japanese college, called on her, attracted by the similarity of the name. He hailed from Chambersburg, Pa., one of the old home-towns of the Denigs. Going over the registers we certainly should have been able to identify him, but as it was, every connection with this branch of the family has been lost.

We close chapter II with the late Commodore's own words:

> "My father and his generation were all hard workers and proud of their ancestry. They were a hardy lot and ever strong for justice, but their fondness for abstruse philosophy despite the professional tendency of their minds, seems to have stood in the way of their acquiring wealth; they lived most of their lives in what was really the pioneer period of America."



BOOKPLATE

Of the late Commodore Robert Gracey Denig, U. S. N., and his son, Major Robert Livingston Denig, U. S. M. C.. In the centre is Johan Denig's coat-of-arms; see Chapter I, p. 22, and Chapter III, p. 88. (Registered, 1922, with the American Society of Bookplate Collectors and Designers—Division of Prints, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.

CHAPTER III

The Branch of

PHILIPP GEORGE DENIG

FOR many years—until 1887—Philipp's branch remained in that part of the Rhineland which stretches from Mainz along the banks of the Middle and Upper Rhine. The family became linked especially with Alsace not only through Philipp himself, but also through his grandson, Bartholomaeus, who also married an Alsatian. Bartholomaeus was a student of law at the University of Strassburg. Two of his daughters and two of his granddaughters married Alsatians.

The Alsatians have been recognized as Germans by race and speech ever since Caesar's legions battled with Ariovistus nearly two thousand years ago. At that time the southern part of Alsace was occupied by the Allemanians, who managed to drive out the Gauls. The northern part, inclusive of Lorraine, became eventually the property of the Franks, who had crossed the Rhine and under Chlodovig (or Chlodoveg) overrun Gaul; they renamed it Nova Franconia (Neustria) which in time changed in name to Francia, France.

At a time of political impotence in the German empire, 1552, the French first seized Metz, and when a similar opportunity offered itself, they forcibly made themselves masters of Strassburg and the whole of Alsace, 1683, without any declaration of war.

In 1871 the Germans regained their lost provinces which France annexed again in 1918.

The Round Tower, once the property of Rudolf Denig, of the old Longobardian Castle at Pergine, near Trento, Val Sugana, showing Johan Denig's coat-of-arms over the entrance.
(See Chapter I, p. 22, and Chapter II, p. 83)

The Alsatians have always been thrifty tillers of their soil, fine fighters, and gifted thinkers. They have contributed not a little to German culture and civilization. In fact some of the monumental pillars of German literature have their roots in old Alsace, the very name of which is German.

The Otfried-song of the 9th century and the Waltharius song, both written in Alsace, belong to the earliest German poems. About two hundred years later when Emperor Frederick Barbarossa held court in Hagenau, in which place the imperial insignia were preserved, Gotfried von Strassburg, the Goethe of the Middle Ages, filled the German world with his fame.

A number of spiritual leaders could be added, among whom we mention Ulrich Engelbrecht (13th century); Johan Tauler (14th century); Konrad von Dankrotzheim in Hagenau, who wrote the first German book for children (15th century); Sebastian Brant; the humanist Thomas Murner; Johannes Fischart (16th century); Johannes Geiler von Kaisersberg; and Hans Michael Moscherosch (17th century). Of the modern Alsatian writers and poets Friedrich Lienhard (born 1865) takes a prominent place in German literature.

From this country Philipp George took his wife Theresa, who by a strange coincidence bore the same family name as Philipp's mother—Weber. She was born in Colmar, formerly a free imperial city, in the southern part of Alsace.

Two children were born from this union in Biebrich: Johan Peter and Theresa, April 4, 1751, and September 8, 1754, respectively.

Johan Peter, like his father, who died August 21, 1791, devoted himself to the administration of his property. He married Catherina Eva Padberg of an old Westphalian noble family in 1775. One of her uncles, Gottfried von Hagenburg, was deacon of the cathedral of Hildesheim; some valuable old

THE "PFISTER HOUSE" IN COLMAR IN ALSACE WHERE THERESA WEBER DENIG WAS BORN

Colmar can boast of a few more of such handsome specimens of mediaeval German architecture, for instance the "Schwendi House" and the house of the ancient Order of the Teutonic Knights of St. John

books of his library came to the Denigs after his death and are still in their possession.

Catherina Denig had eight children:[14]

Anna, b. March 31, 1776.
Bartholomaeus Emeranus, b. October 27, 1777.
Margareta, b. December 25, 1779.
Philipp Nicolaus, b. June 15, 1781.
Dominik Gottfried, b. July 6, 1783.
Clara Thekla, b. October 17, 1784.
Catherina, b. December 6, 1786.
Catherina Josepha, b. June 23, 1790.

Of all these eight children only Margareta and Bartholomaeus survived childhood.

Early in the nineties we find Johan Peter in Mainz where he owned a house which was destroyed at the siege of Mainz, 1793. The French under General Custine had taken the city a year before, and later were besieged there. The siege has been made famous by a very vivid description left us by Goethe, who, in the retinue of Duke Bernhard von Weimar, was an eyewitness of the military operations and the final capitulation of the city by the French.

Let us follow Goethe:

". . . On June 27th the bombardment began, and very soon a large number of houses were destroyed by fire.

. . . On June 28th the bombardment continued. In the redoubt near Marienborn we witnessed an awful spectacle: it was a starlight night, and the bombs seemed to vie with the stars; there were moments, when it was impossible to tell which was which. New to me was the rising and falling of the firebombs, for when they seemed to reach the firmament in a flat trajectory, they suddenly fell, and a flaming blaze presently announced that they had reached their destination.

. . . In the night of the 14th to the 15th of July the French were driven from Fort Carl; there was a terrible bombardment . . . the laboratory took fire and was blown up; many houses were destroyed and fell in ruins.

. . . July 22nd surrender of the fortress by the French.

July 24th the French garrison marched out of the city; we saw its departure in all its solemnity. Headed by Prussian cavalry the French passed by. First came a troop of soldiers from the city of Marseilles. It was a strange spectacle to behold: a smallsized, black, darkskinned,

motley, shabbily uniformed horde tripped by, as if King Edwin had opened his mountain and sent out his army of sprightly pigmies. Then followed better looking troops; their band struck up the Marseillaise: this revolutionary Te Deum has something sombre, melancholy and foreboding, even if executed in a brisk and lively manner.

. . . On July 26th I entered the city on horseback with some friends. We found it in the most pitiful condition; in ashes and ruins lay what centuries had labored to build up. The confusion and depression of our mind was very great indeed, much worse, than if we had come into a city, laid down in ashes by some natural cataclysm . . ."

All this misery Johan Peter had to endure with his family. His house was destroyed with all its contents, and he had to congratulate himself on having escaped bodily harm or even worse. He removed to Biebrich and died in 1800.

Under Napoleon the French came back; the Germans were beaten. As a result of the Luneville peace treaty, 1801, the left bank of the Rhine became French, to remain so until 1814.

This had a great bearing on the career of Bartholomaeus, who, yielding to the entreaties of his mother, had first studied theology, which he now gave up; he became a student of law at Strassburg University, 1801-1803. After serving for a short time in Napoleon's army, he entered the French civil service, 1804. While a student in Strassburg, he met his future wife, Anne Marie Allemand.

The Allemands hailed from the interior of France; apparently the first bearer of the name had acquired his name in the same way that the Denigs had received theirs. Anne Marie's grandfather was a naval officer and had been made a Chevalier de St. Louis by the French king for bravery in battle, which

decoration included the rank of personal nobility. Her father who was a Procureur du Roy in Hagenau, and his brother, who was to become an Admiral and a "Count of the Empire" by an act of his grateful master, Napoleon, were born at Port Louis, Morbihan. A few words about the Admiral may not be

COMTE ZACHARIE JACQUES THÉODORE ALLEMAND

entirely out of place, as his name is to be found in all the books treating of the Napoleonic era; the following is from the book, *Histoire de la Marine Française au 19e siècle,* by Victor Froud. Paris, 1868. Tome 2:

> ". . . Son père, lieutenant de vaisseau et chevalier de Saint Louis, le fit embarquer comme mousse à douze ans. Il a exercé neuf commandements généraux, rempli dix-huit missions et assisté à dixsept combats. Il reçut trois blessures graves. Il était le corsaire de la marine de l'Etat

et le héros des "loups de mer." Nul officier de mer n'était plus hardi que lui . . . Il fut le plus active peut-être, et à coup sûr l'un des plus hardis et des plus heureux de son époque . . ."

Translation:

"His father, Lieutenant-Commander and Knight of the order of Saint Louis made him enter the navy as a shipboy at the age of twelve. He filled nine general commands, was employed in eighteen special missions, and took part in seventeen battles. He was severely wounded three times. He was the rover of the French Navy and the hero of the "seawolves." No naval officer was more daring than he . . . He was perhaps the most active, and certainly one of the most dashing and lucky mariners of his epoch . . ."

Two brothers of Anne Marie were both French officers. One of them, Josèphe, perished in the Russian campaign; some of the books of his library are still in possession of the Denigs. The other, Antoine, was mortally wounded in an engagement, at the age of 28, and was made Lieutenant-Colonel by Napoleon himself on the battlefield. A sister of Anne Marie, Madeleine, married a Marquis de Garondlet—her daughter became a Countess Seyssel d'Aix; and another one, Emily, became the wife of Kohler, the legal adviser (Syndicus) of the free city of Speyer on the Rhine. His brother was a General and commandant of the fortress of Strassburg. A niece of Anne Marie, Amalia, married the Bavarian General, Rohr, whose daughter became a Baroness Schellerer.

We have dwelt especially on the history of the Allemand family to show that it stood in high favor with Napoleon, who was several times the guest of Emily's husband in Speyer. On one such occasion Anne Marie, then unmarried, met Napoleon and passed the night under the same roof with the emperor.

MRS. ANNE MARIE ALLEMAND DENIG
At the age of sixteen. (From a painting)

BARTHOLOMAEUS DENIG
At the age of thirty-two. (From a painting.)

HIPPOLYT DENIG

LUDWIG ALEXANDER DENIG

This unforgettable event was handed down with great pride from one generation of the Denigs to another.

The marriage between Anne Marie (born September 20, 1789) and Bartholomaeus took place in Hagenau on the first of May, 1805.

Anne Marie died October 11, 1869; her husband had preceded her March 14, 1844. After the downfall of the Napoleonic empire he had entered the Bavarian civil service. He passed the last years of his life in Frankenthal, Palatinate, where he owned a stately mansion. He was very fond of horses even in his old age; one day he went out for a ride from which he did not return alive. His horse shied, and plunging down the embankment of a brook, crushed its rider.

Five children were born in Speyer to Bartholomaeus and Anne Marie, three sons and two daughters:

Hippolyt, b. August 13, 1810.
Ludwig Alexander, b. October 18, 1812.
Amalia, b. April 7, 1818.
Augusta, b. November 11, 1821.
Rudolf, b. February 12, 1829.

Ludwig Alexander became an officer in the Bavarian army, took part in all the wars of his country, and died a Lieutenant-Colonel in Bamberg, May 13, 1895. He received many decorations for bravery. He remained single, as did his brother Rudolf, who was a manufacturer of cotton goods in Weinheim a/B; he died January 6, 1867.

Amalia married an Alsatian, Karl Scherer, and when she died in 1871, her younger sister became his second wife.

The oldest son, Hippolyt, was the one to propagate the family. One of his earliest reminiscences was the passing of Cossacks through the old free city of Speyer on their way to France in 1814; one of them took him on his horse and gave

him a ride. He graduated from the gymnasium in Speyer and later, in the summer of 1829, went to Heidelberg to study law.

In those days the academic youth was very much agitated by liberal ideas which had as their end an uprising against the then existing autocratic government, and the proclamation of a republic. This was eventually accomplished in 1848. Although the republic which was then proclaimed could not endure, and many of the best men had to leave the country, because the army stood by the government, many liberties were won for the people, and the autocratic regime came to an end.

THE "HIRSCHGASSE IN 1826"
The historic duelling place of the Heidelberg students
Hippolyt and his son Rudolf, both fought duels there

Hippolyt's sympathies were with his fellow students, and he was on this account never a favorite with the reactionary government in his subsequent career. He finished his studies at Munich in 1833 and was then attached to the government law office in Speyer for three years, after which he was ap-

pointed Justice of the Peace in Bergzabern, Palatinate. He held a number of government positions—one also in Diedenhofen, Lorraine—and died on October 25, 1891, in Bamberg.

He was married twice. From his first wife, Josephine Wies, he had a daughter, Mathilde, whose marriage took her to Alsace, and by a strange fate to the very house where her grandmother had been born, in Rosenstrasse, Hagenau. His second wife was a Mayer-Hubing from Otterberg in the Palatinate. The Hubings were Flemings and had been driven out of the Netherlands by the Spaniards in the 16th century on account of their Protestant religion. For their tercentenial arrival in Otterberg a pamphlet was published, in which an account is given of their wanderings, until they were eventually allowed to settle. (Knecht: Geschichtsblaetter des Hugenottenvereins. I. Jahrgang, Heft 7.) They were part of a small band of refugees headed by a clergyman; driven from pillar to post, they found at last a haven of religious liberty in the Palatinate.

It may seem strange to the reader that they found religious liberty in the Palatinate, the very country, from which Johan Peter (see chapter II) was forced to emigrate on account of religious persecution. This is easily explained by the fact, that in case a Catholic ruler succeeded a Protestant all the "subjects" had to turn Catholic, and *vice versa,* in accordance with the then prevailing maxim "cujus regio, ejus religio"; and exactly this had happened several times in the Palatinate.

From his second wife Elisabeth (b. Sept. 27, 1833, d. Aug. 29, 1903) Hippolyt had six children:

Pauline, b. August 20, 1857, married E. Kieffer; she died March 13, 1920. One daughter, Elisabeth.

Emilie, b. December 17, 1858; single, lives in Bamberg.

Ludwig Alexander, b. February 14, 1861, alive in 1924, retired from business in Hackensack, N. J. Two children;

One son, Ralph, who is a practising physician in Hackensack, is married and has one boy, Ralph Alexander, b. July 31, 1923. One daughter, Emily.

Mina, b. October 7, 1862, married her cousin, Robert Scherer in Rappoltsweiler, Alsace. Two sons: Karl and Hermann.

Amalia, b. March 3, 1864, married Richard Hanstein. The old Hanstein castle stands between Werra and Fulda and is still very imposing in its ruins. No children.

Rudolf Karl Robert, b. December 8, 1867, in Frankenthal,[15] Palatinate.*

Rudolf went to college at Bamberg and Neustadt a/H. where he was graduated in 1886. He studied medicine at the universities of Heidelberg, Munich, Berlin, and Wuerzburg, and finished his studies at the latter place June, 1891. He then became a ship's surgeon and visited on his trips, Lisbon, Madeira, Teneriffe, Brazil, and the Argentines. When Rudolf visited Brazil, nearly all the shipping in the harbors of Santos and Rio de Janeiro had come to a standstill, and a large fleet of sailing vessels, especially in Santos, was anchored in the harbor without any crews because of a violent epidemic of yellow fever. The "San Nicolas" alone, a 1,500 ton Hamburg steamer, on which Rudolf was ship's surgeon, took eight Norwegian sea captains to Santos to take command of deserted ships. Rudolf had a fine chance to study the dreaded disease. At Santos and Rio the white crew of the "San Nicolas" was shipped, during the time of the unloading and loading of the steamer, to a place of comparative safety in the mountains, while the first officer and Rudolf remained on board. The

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* A sketch of Rudolf Denig appeared in Supplement I p. 491 of the *National Cyclopedia of American Biography*. It was not revised by the subject of the article and contains many errors. See also, *Who is Who in America*, 1923.

havoc the terrible plague played with the white crews of the many vessels that came to those two ports was awful. Thanks to the wonderful progress of medicine those formerly ill-reputed harbors now enjoy a much better reputation.

Postgraduate work took him to London, Paris, and Vienna. In November, 1892, he was appointed as assistant surgeon to the University Eye Clinic in Wuerzberg and was made a lecturer, 1894.

The four years during which Rudolf was officially connected with the University Eye Clinic in Wuerzburg, were the most impressive ones of his life. At that time the German universities had arrived at the summit of their fame. A marvelous system of organisation and cooperation, helped by a unique spirit of selfdenial and sacrifice on the part of all the members of the faculties for the sake of science and true progress of humanity, had accomplished such a result. Materialism had not taken possession of the younger generation then, and an academic career attracted young men of ambition much more than banking or commerce. The position of a "University Professor" was the most respected all over the country by young and old. He was financially independent, being paid by the government, and when he became too old to hold his position any longer, he was retired on a fair pension. He was not endangered losing his chair by teaching doctrines not pleasing the government; he would perhaps risk to be vetoed by the government in case the faculty would propose him for promotion. He could be *persona ingrata,* but could not be deposed. On the other hand such a man set an example of idealism, was a spiritual leader, stood for what he thought was right, and when he spoke, the whole nation listened to him. It was a thorny path to "get there," for it took sometimes years and years, before such a cherished position became vacant.

No wonder that such a spirit accomplished so much and

that foreigners from all over the world flocked to the "Mecca" of the German universities. In some of the lectures, especially of the applied sciences, the number of foreigners who attended preponderated over that of the natives.

The position at the University Clinic brought Rudolf in daily personal contact with most excellent men; as a student he had to stand aloof, and such men as Virchow he could admire only from a distance. Now that he was thrown together with them in daily professional and social contact, he belonged to their circle. Not all of them were shining lights and enjoyed international reputation like Koelliker, the anatomist; Sachs, the botanist; Fischer, the man of the synthetic sugar fame; Leube, the great internist; Michel, the ophthalmologist; Fick, the pathologist and philosopher; not to forget Roentgen, the benefactor of mankind: it was Rudolf's privilege to be present at the first demonstration of X-rays given by Roentgen himself; it was a stupendous revelation, never to be forgotten,—but all of them were imbued with a rare devotion to science, a strong sense of duty, and unselfish application to their respective work, lending a helping hand to the younger man whenever needed.

In 1895, Rudolf received a call as professor to the newly founded university at Freiburg in Switzerland, which he declined. In December, 1896, he followed an invitation to New York by Dr. Herman Knapp, who was then the head of a famous eye clinic (now the H. Knapp Memorial Eye Hospital) in New York, and Professor at Columbia University. In 1904 he became Attending Ophthalmologist at the Lenox Hill Hospital, and in 1909 Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology at Columbia University. He is also Consulting Ophthalmologist in some other hospitals.

Rudolf has published over 50 scientific articles on the eye.[16] For one of them, in 1894, he received the "Robert Koch Prize"

CASTLE SCHREEZ, NEAR BAYREUTH, IN UPPER-FRANCONIA
The ancestral home and property of Mrs. Lili von Seefried Denig
(Authentically first mentioned in 1248, rebuilt in 1541-1551)

RUDOLF DENIG

MRS. LILI VON SEEFRIED DENIG
(From a painting)

from the Wuerzburg University. For many years he was collaborator of J. Michel's, *Annual Report of the Progress in Ophthalmology,* and also the American correspondent of the *Zeitschrift fuer Augenheilkunde,* Berlin.

In 1920, and again in 1924, he was one of those chosen by the Nobel Prize Committee (*Karolinska Institutet, Den Medicinska Nobel-Komitén*) to nominate a condidate for the Nobel Prize.

In 1909, he was decorated with the order of the Red Eagle by the German government. During his vacations he travelled extensively. He was a participant in the Gordon-Bennett balloon race in 1907 when he ascended at St. Louis on October 18th and landed on the Atlantic coast near Manassas, Virginia, on October 20th. In 1922 he established the "Denig-Manoe Foundation for the Blind of Upper-Franconia," as a modest manifestation of his gratitude to the country of his birth in its hour of need.

In 1928 was made Honorary Member of Wurzburg University and received the Merit Medal

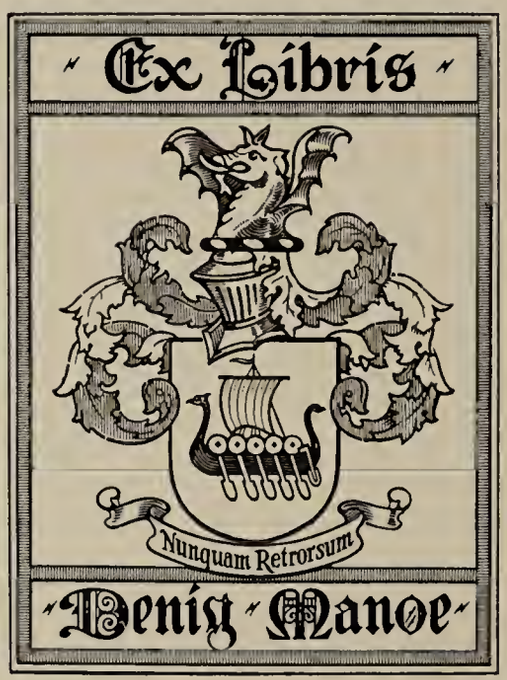
In 1912 (July 24) he married at Castle Schreez[17] near Bayreuth, Lili Seefried (b. December 20, 1877) of an old Franconian family, a member of which, Count Otto Seefried, had become, in 1893, the consort of the Bavarian Princess, Elisabeth, granddaughter of Francis Joseph, the Hapsburg emperor. One son, Alfred Carl Maximilian, was born May 3rd, 1913, at 56 East 58th Street, New York.

We are at the end. We have faithfully recorded all that was known to us of the "Clan" and its different members. There may be some that have not found a place in this book, though through no fault of ours.

The "Denig Annals" cover three different countries—Denmark, Germany, and the United States. The history of these countries is reflected, as justly intimated by the Swedish

poet, Essaias Tegner, on page 3, by the career of the various members of our family. As it goes, our surroundings, or the nation to which we happen to belong put their stamp on us, and it is only the genius to whom it is given to impress his personality on the nation, the age, or humanity at large.

There is still plenty of room for such a man amongst the Manoe-Denigs!



BOOKPLATE OF RUDOLF DENIG

(Registered, 1922, with the American Society of Bookplate Collectors and Designers—Division of Prints, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.)

FOOTNOTES

[1] Smaa Kongen—small king—chieftain. In Friesland the title "Chieftain" or "Haeuptling" appears in official documents as late as the second half of the 15th century. A number of descendants of such families accepted in the course of times a patent of nobility from the Crown. The Seetrieds, by intermarriage in the 17th century, became related to one of those families, the Rykenas.

[2] The oldest son took as family name the first name of his father with the affix of -sen, and as first name the family name of the father of his mother, of course without the -sen. The second son as a rule was called after the grandfather of his mother; the third son again took his father's brother's first name as his family name.

[3] The rude habits of the age were strongly marked by the difficulty which the government found in putting down the practice of plundering merchantmen, shipwrecked on the coast. Even bishops, residing on the coast, did not scruple to aid in taking forcible possession of the cargo; and it is a remarkable fact that a law passed by the Danish king, about 1521, for the persecution of these practices was abrogated and publicly burned at the instance of the barons and clergy a few years after when a new sovereign had succeeded to the throne.

[4] At the time Frederick Svensen was born in Flensburg, which then belonged to Denmark, his father was a "Predikant," i. e. Curate.

[5] When Frederick Svensen came to Biebrich, the castle (seen in the picture) was the residence of the Dukes of Nassau-Oranien. It was built 1706; the town itself enjoyed then some commercial importance. Johan Peter, who came to America, must have left Biebrich and settled somewhere else in the Palatinate, as the Dukes of Nassau were faithful protectors of the Lutheran denomination, while the Palatinate government at that time was intolerant to Protestants.

[6] We modern people can hardly understand how little attention was paid in old documents to the correct writing of family names. When our name changed in Biebrich from Deneg [originally Deneck(e)] into Denig, it took some time before the new way of writing the name became permanent. Therefore, it is not surprising that Mrs. Herbert Backus in a letter to Commodore R. G. Denig, dated June 17th, 1920, mentions different varieties of the name which she found in old family papers.

[7] The late Commodore R. G. Denig has written the first five pages of chapter II. Unfortunately his death, 1924, prevented him from finishing this chapter. He had, however, collected most of the material pertaining to the history of his branch, and the many notes he had jotted down covered practically nearly the whole subject and needed only little assistance from our pen. Therefore, we take pleasure in crediting him with the authorship of this chapter.

[8] Gertraud's husband's name was Switzler. One of her descendants is Judge Lewis M. Switzler of Columbia, Missouri. A veteran of the Civil War, he was police

judge, editor, judge of the probate court, judge of the circuit court, and a lawyer of State and national prominence. On June 20th, 1924, he celebrated his eighty-third birthday, still hale and hearty. One of his brothers was Colonel in the Civil War, newspaper editor and owner, and was appointed chief of the Bureau of Statistics by President Cleveland.

[9] Edwin T. Denig's description of Fort Union is an important historic document of American pioneer times. It is buried in "The Well Known Naturalist John J. Audubon's Journals" by Maria R. Audubon, New York, Chas. Scribner's Sons, 1897. It should he made more accessible to schools, colleges, and public libraries.

[10] Until 1838 the Assiniboin tribe still numbered from a thousand to twelve hundred lodges (six souls to a lodge); the smallpox reduced them to less than four hundred lodges.

[11] Friedrich Kurz was horn in Bern in 1818. During 1846 he went to America, landing at New Orleans. During 1850-51-52 he went to the Upper Missouri tribes. Remaining at Fort Union all winter, he left there, April 19th, 1852, for Saint Louis. He formed a large collection of ethnographical material and wrote a valuable book. Returned to his home, 1852. Many of his pictures are in the Bern Art Gallery.

[12] In the "Preface" to *My Old Note Book,* John McClintock Denig has the following to say:

> "As for the contents of the volume, they are a true copy of the original manuscript; without alteration or amendment to suit the prejudices of any person, party, denomination or sect, and as I have written for neither money nor popularity, I feel superlatively indifferent about either the praise or censure of the reader."

[13] Major R. L. Denig is entitled to membership in the "Holland Society of America" by virtue of his direct descent from Peter Van der Water Meulen of Amsterdam, Holland, who came to America early in the seventeenth century and had his name changed by the legislature of Connecticut to Peter Mills. Also by reason of direct descent from Peter Schuyler and his wife Margretta Van Slechtenhorst, daughter of the Director, Brant Arentse Van Slechtenhorst. He is also entitled to membership in the Society of the "Sons of the American Revolution" by reason of his descent from Johan Peter Denig, who came to America, 1748, and served as Private in the Revolutionary Army, as did Ludwig, the son of Johan Peter; and from John Hubbard of Bloomfield, Conn., born 1748, who served as a Sergeant in the Revolutionary Army—and from Henry Livingston, born 1748, who served as Major and was promoted to Colonel. He was in the third generation in direct descent from Robert Livingston, first lord of the Livingston Manor, Dutchess County, New York. Finally Major Denig is entitled to membership in the "Society of 1812 War" by virtue of his descent from Dr. George Denig who served in that war.

[14] In the church register "Dominus Reverendus Nicolaus de Padberg" and "Dominus Gottfried de Hagenburg" are mentioned as godfathers of Philipp Nicolaus and Dominik Gottfried, respectively.

[15] Frankenthal, formerly the principal fortress of the Palatinate, is not far from Worms, the old Burgundian capital of Nibelungen fame; near by, surrounded by bushes, a spring is shown where according to local tradition Siegfried was slain by Hagen. According to the "Nibelungen Lied," however, he was killed in the Odenwald beyond the Rhine. There is the "Siegfried's bourne" authentically mentioned as far back as 773 A. D.

[16] The following are some of Rudolf Denig's monographs:

On Resection of the Subclavial Vein. Inaugural Dissertation, Wuerzburg, 1890.

Traumatic Enophthalmus. Archives of Ophthalmology, German Edition, Vol. 28, p. 276.

On the Anatomy of Retinitis Proliferans. Archives of Ophthalmology, Vol. 30, p. 212. German Edition.

Paralysis of Eyemuscles after Diphtheria.

Changes in the Eyegrounds in Scorbutus.

Changes in the Eyegrounds in Cirrhosis of the Liver.

Interstitial Opacities of Cornea, the Result of Lightning. The last four papers were published in Muenchener Med. Wochenschrift No. 35, 36, and 34 respectively. 1895.

On the Frequency of local Tuberculosis of the Eye, the Relations between general Tuberculosis and Tuberculosis of the Eye, its Diagnosis and Prognosis. Archives of Ophthalmology, German Edition, Vol. 31, p. 359.

Migration of Foreign Bodies in the Anterior Chamber of the Eye. Heidelberg Ophth. Society, 25th Meeting, p. 305.

Experimental Concussion of Retina. Archives of Ophth. German Ed. Vol. 33, p. 52, and also English Edition.

Inoculations in Tuberculous Iritis. "New York Med. Journal," Oct. 9, 1897.

On the Etiology of Congenital Trichiasis. 71st Meeting of German Naturalists and Physicians, p. 345.

On the Histology and Etiology of Posterior Lenticonus. Opthalmic Record, April, 1899.

Varicose Veins in the Orbit. Ophthalm. Rec., May, 1899.

Pneumococcus Conjunctivitis and Pneumococcus Angina. Zeitschrift f. Augenheilkunde, Vol. 4, p. 213.

Injuries of the Eye caused by Ammonia. Ibidem, Vol. 11, p. 308.

Free Cysts in the Anterior Chamber. Opthalm. Rec., May, 1902, p. 257.

Subperiostal Bloodcyst of the Orbit. Ibidem, April, 1902, p. 187.

Some Remarks on the Operation of Secondary Cataract, embedded in the Vitreous. Ibidem, January, 1907.

Paracentesis of the Anterior Chamber in Inflammatory Processes of the Uveal Tract. Ibidem, Feb., 1908.

Family Unilateral Hyperhydrosis. N. Y. Eye and Ear Infirmary Reports, 1904.

The Chapter on the Operation of Secondary Cataract in Claiborne's Book, *Cataract Extraction* (William Wood & Co., New York, 1908), was written by Rudolf Denig.

A Suggestion for an Operation for Chronic Glaucoma.

A Suggestion for an Operation for Keratoconus. The two last papers appeared in "Opthalmology," 1910.

A few Remarks on Trephining. Ophthalm. Rec., Jan., 1914.

Transplantation of Mucous Membrane of Mouth for Various Diseases and Burns of the Cornea. "New York Med. Journal," June 18, 1918.

Early Surgical Treatment for Burns of the Conjunctiva. American Journal of Ophthalmology, April, 1920, p. 256.

[17] Schreez, formerly Screz, meaning Pan (old high German), in Franconia; Upper, Middle, and Lower Franconia are German provinces, stretching along the borders of the river Main; they are ancient seats of the famous Franks, retaining the old name. The Seefrieds are related by marriage to the first owners of the castle, the Nankenreuths.